



# The Los Al Loop



*Your Source for Los Alamitos Community News.*

Volume 1 Issue 5 Wednesday, June 11, 2025 thelosalloop.org

## Elvis Joins the Force Thanks to Kenny Brandyberry, Community



Los Alamitos' K-9 Elvis pictured with Kenny Brandyberry (left) during a City event and Officer Navarro (right) during training to protect Los Alamitos residents.

He's loyal, fearless, and even understands a bit of German. Elvis, a highly trained Belgian Malinois, has been patrolling the streets of Los Alamitos since December 25, 2024. His arrival marked a milestone moment for the Los Alamitos Police Department, as Elvis significantly expands the department's operational efficiency. Since joining the force, Elvis has already participated in dozens of calls for service, serving as a vital resource in high-stress and dangerous situations. Whether assisting with narcotics detection, suspect apprehension, or officer protection, Elvis's presence has proven to be a valuable asset to the department and the community. As with any star, Elvis wouldn't have made it to the stage without the help of the community. While the planning and development of the K-9 program was made possible through a collaborative effort between the City and the Los Alamitos Community Foundation, some very special community partners and residents gave the program life. Upon hearing that the City was exploring different options, one of this community's stars, Kenny Brandyberry, stepped onto the stage. Requesting only that the K-9 be named "Elvis," Brandyberry under-

wrote the initial funds needed for the program. "The greatest thing I ever did was invest in the K-9 program for the city. I am so proud of Elvis", stated Brandyberry. The next member of this star-studded team is Officer Marc Navarro, Elvis's handler and full-time caretaker. The two share not just a professional relationship, but a living arrangement, with Officer Navarro taking on the dual role of K-9 officer and roommate. Their day-to-day routine involves ongoing training, fieldwork, and continued socialization—factors critical to the success of any working K-9 unit. Officer Navarro, who is new to K-9 handling, has taken on the responsibility with dedication, learning not only the operational aspects of the job but also the broader demands involved in caring for a canine partner. The role requires significant personal investment, financial awareness, and emotional connection. Thanks to these collective efforts, the department was able to acquire Elvis from a training facility in Germany. Due to the international nature of his training, Elvis responds to commands in German, prompting Officer Navarro to learn the basic language skills

necessary to effectively manage him both in the field and at home. According to Chief of Police Michael Claborn, the K-9 unit not only strengthens officer safety and operational efficiency but also helps deepen ties between the police department and the community. Elvis has become more than just a working dog; he's a symbol of community investment. Elvis has appeared at several community engagement events, including Coffee with a Cop, the Los Alamitos Winter Wonderland, and various school visits. His approachable demeanor and calm, well-trained behavior make him a favorite among children and adults. These events offer residents an opportunity to see the human and canine sides of law enforcement. As Los Alamitos continues its efforts to enhance public safety and foster community relationships, Elvis represents what can be achieved through collaboration, dedication, and shared goals. The city looks forward to many more years of faithful service from its four-legged officer. Elvis may be new to the force, but he's already proving that courage and commitment come in many forms—and sometimes with a wagging tail.

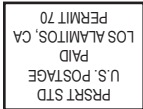
## Upcoming Events Calendar

### City Meetings

- City Council Adjourned Meeting  
Date: June 9, 2025  
Time: 6 PM
- Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission Meeting  
Date: August 2, 2025  
Time: 7 PM
- Planning Commission Meeting  
Date: June 25, 2025  
Time: 7 PM
- Traffic Commission Meeting  
Date: July 9, 2025  
Time: 7 PM

### City Events

- Concerts on Pine Street Week 1  
Date: June 12, 2025  
Band: JT Harker (Country)  
Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
Location: 10902 Pine Street
  - Concerts on Pine Street Week 2  
Date: June 19, 2025  
Band: Devotional (Depeche Mode Tribute)  
Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
Location: 10902 Pine Street
  - Concerts on Pine Street Week 3  
Date: June 26, 2025  
Band: 80Z Band (80's Music)  
Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
Location: 10902 Pine Street
  - Concerts on Pine Street Week 4  
Date: July 10, 2025  
Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
Band: Headshine (Reggae)  
Location: 10902 Pine Street
  - 3rd of July Fireworks Spectacular  
Date: July 3, 2025  
Time: 4:00 PM - 9:30 PM  
Location: Joint Forces Training Base
- More events can be found on the City website: [cityoflosalamitos.org](http://cityoflosalamitos.org)



3191 Katella Avenue  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5600

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# Los Alamitos Launches Modern Online Parking Permit System to Boost Accessibility, Service

PERMIT	VALID	COST	FORMAT
Free Residential Parking Permit <i>(up to 3 per address)</i>	1 Year (July-June)	Free	Hangtag
Additional Residential Permits <i>(up to 2)</i>	1 Year (July-June)	\$25	Hangtag
Annual Visitor Permit <i>(up to 2 per address)</i>	1 Year (July-June)	Free	Hangtag
Daily Visitor/Event Guest Permits <i>not to exceed 15 permits in total for 1 day</i>	1-day only permit	\$1.00	Printable PDF
Replacement Permit	Remainder of current cycle	\$25	Hangtag
Oversized Vehicle Permit <i>applies to all residents e.g. RV/Boats/Trailers</i>	3-day permit <i>not to exceed 9 days total per month</i>	\$10 (per 3-day permit)	Printable PDF
Temporary Solid Waste Container <i>applies to all residents/businesses 2-40 yard dumpsters</i>	14-day permit	\$10	Printout not required

Los Alamitos is taking a significant step forward in modernizing city services with the launch of its online parking permit system, which went live on June 1, 2025. This transition marks a departure from the longstanding in-person application process at the Los Alamitos Police Department, which posed challenges for many residents due to busy schedules, mobility limitations, or transportation barriers. The new online platform aims to streamline the process, making it more accessible and convenient. The shift to digital permitting is part of a broader effort to modernize city services, following technology upgrades in multiple departments, including the City Clerk’s Office, Finance Department, and Development Services. After evaluating vendor proposals, the city selected Turbo

Data Systems (TDS), a provider with extensive experience supporting municipalities across California, to manage the new system. A key feature of the revised program is the introduction of two new permit types. Oversized vehicle permits will allow parking for up to three days, with a maximum of nine total days permitted per month. This new permit type recognizes the challenges faced by residents who require temporary parking for large vehicles, such as recreational vehicles or trailers, and provides a structured framework for short-term accommodations. Additionally, the introduction of a temporary solid waste bin permit responds to the city’s need for improved oversight of construction and disposal projects. With a \$10 fee per permit, the city aims to recover administrative costs

while ensuring proper placement and usage of waste containers, helping maintain neighborhood aesthetics and safety. The transition to an online permitting system introduces several notable improvements designed to simplify the process for residents and enhance operational efficiency. Users will now be able to submit proof of residency and vehicle registration directly through the online portal, eliminating the need for in-person document verification. Residential and annual visitor permits will be mailed as hang tags upon approval, ensuring a seamless delivery process without requiring physical pickup. For those seeking daily visitor or oversized vehicle permits, the system will offer downloadable PDFs for self-printing. Despite the push toward digital con-

venience, Los Alamitos recognizes that not all residents may be comfortable with online applications. As a result, City Hall will continue to offer in-person permit processing during regular business hours, providing an accessible alternative for those who prefer traditional methods. To ensure residents are well-informed about these changes, the city has initiated a comprehensive outreach campaign. Notices were distributed through direct mailers, door hangers, and social media updates, while local publications such as the Los Al Loop newsletter and the Los Alamitos Weekly E-Newsletter will provide detailed explanations of the new system to residents. City officials believe that the new permit system represents a major improvement in accessibility and efficiency. Residents can access the online system at [www.cityoflosalamitos.org/GetAPermit](http://www.cityoflosalamitos.org/GetAPermit) or at the QR code below:



## Los Alamitos’ Organic Waste Procurement Policy Meets State SB1383 Climate Mandate

In a move to strengthen its environmental initiatives and align with California’s state mandates, Los Alamitos has adopted Resolution No. 2025-16 for the procurement of recovered organic waste products. This is to comply with California Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), a state law aimed at reducing methane emissions and curbing climate change through organic waste recycling. The resolution, presented during the May 19, 2025, council meeting, establishes clear guidelines for procuring compost, mulch, and other recycled organic products, as well as recycled-content paper. Originally passed in 2016 and implemented in 2022, SB 1383 mandates that municipalities procure a specific quantity of organic waste products based on an annual target set by CalRecycle, the state’s waste management authority. The legislation is part of a broader strategy to divert organic waste from landfills, which are a major source of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. The policy also directs all City departments and divisions to prioritize recycled paper products, such as copier paper, paper towels, and drinking cups, made with at least 30% recycled fiber content when quality and price align with non-recycled products. According to City officials, adopting this policy helps minimize Los Alam-

itos’ environmental footprint by reducing pollution, conserving energy and water, and protecting natural resources. Departments responsible for landscaping maintenance, renovation, or construction will now be required to use compost and eligible mulch whenever feasible and available. This policy mandates that all city departments and divisions incorporate the procurement of recovered organic waste products, including recycled-content paper and printing materials, into their operations. The new Policy for the Procurement of Recovered Organic Waste Products aligns with SB 1383, which sets ambitious goals to reduce organic waste disposal and promote the use of recycled materials. SB 1383 requires jurisdictions to procure 100% of their annual target of recovered organic waste products with any combination of compost, mulch, renewable energy, or recycled-content paper. The city’s policy outlines three primary objectives:

1. Resource Conservation
2. Environmental Protection
3. Regulatory Compliance

The city is committed to meeting its annual procurement target by utilizing a combination of recovered organic waste products that best fit local needs. These products may include compost, mulch, renewable energy



from anaerobic digestion, and recycled-content paper products. The city may also engage in partnerships with local organizations to distribute these products, further promoting community involvement and sustainability. To ensure compliance, the city will maintain detailed records of all procurement activities related to recovered organic waste products. These records will be essential for reporting purposes and to demonstrate adherence to state regulations. The City of Los Alamitos is proactively working to establish the necessary infrastructure and partnerships to meet its procurement targets. This proactive approach underscores the city’s commitment to environmental stewardship and its role in advancing

California’s climate goals. According to City staff, the adoption of this resolution will not have any negative fiscal impact. The cost of purchasing recycled products has already been factored into the City’s operating budget. Los Alamitos has consistently met the state’s procurement standards in recent years and anticipates continuing this trend under the new policy. Staff emphasized that this action reflects the City’s ongoing commitment to sustainability and responsible resource management. For more information on the city’s environmental initiatives relevant residents and businesses, visit <https://cityoflosalamitos.org/462/State-of-California-Solid-Waste-Recyclin>.



Employee of the Quarter: Jason Bruton



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 Recreation Manager Jason Bruton for the Spring 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 Al TV is Open for Public Submissions



The City of Los Alamitos has adopted new guidelines for its community cable channel, Los Al TV – 3, aimed at increasing transparency, promoting civic participation, and elevating local voices. The policy, formalized through Administrative Regulation 7.06 and approved by the City Council via Resolution No. 2024-40, outlines the framework for how the channel will operate moving forward. The channel will continue to broadcast government meetings, but it will also allow content submissions from educational organizations and the public at large. Original programming from local residents and community organizations may be submitted, as long as the content is non-commercial and relevant to the public interest. The updated policy reinforces the channel’s three core functions: public access, educational access, and government access. Residents, nonprofits, and community groups are invited to submit original programming, while schools and colleges within the city’s general area are encouraged to contribute educational material. Government-related broadcasts, such as city council meetings, commission meetings, and public service announcements, will remain a central

component of the channel’s offerings. To ensure the content meets community and regulatory standards, the City has appointed a PEG Channel Coordinator who will manage scheduling, equipment, and community outreach. The coordinator will also be responsible for reviewing submissions and responding to public concerns. Strict guidelines have been put in place regarding the type of content allowed. Commercial advertising and political campaign materials are not permitted. Programming must not contain obscene or defamatory content, and anything considered potentially offensive must carry a disclaimer and be aired only during late-night hours. Educational and locally focused programming will be prioritized, and submissions must comply with all copyright laws. All airtime will remain free of charge, but program length, frequency, and time slots may be limited to ensure fair access across the community. Interested producers must submit a Program Submittal Request Form, available on the City’s website. While producers may request preferred airtime, the City notes that scheduling will ultimately be based on availability and public interest. Residents who believe a program violates content standards can file a written complaint with the Station Manager. Any content found to be in breach of the rules may be removed, and repeat offenders may be banned from future submissions. For more information or to submit a program, residents can visit the City of Los Alamitos website or contact the City Clerk’s Office.

Mayor’s Business Spotlight: Summer Harvest



What began as a simple conversation about donations has blossomed into a decade-long mission to fight food insecurity during school breaks. Amy Payne, founder and director of Summer Harvest, launched the nonprofit 10 years ago after speaking with her sister, an elementary school teacher, about what students needed for the upcoming winter break. “Families were asking for basics like bread and mayonnaise,” Payne recalled. “It made me think—if they need this during a two-week break, what happens during the summer when school is out for months?” That question sparked research and action. Payne began exploring the gaps in food assistance for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch during the school year but lose access to those meals once summer begins. She quickly discovered a major flaw in the federal food program: to receive summer meal support, a school district must have at least 50% of its student population qualify for free or reduced-price meals. This requirement disqualifies districts like Los Alamitos, where only 17% of students meet the criteria. Despite individual schools within or near the area, like one in Cypress with a 45% rate, having greater need. In the midst of being laid off from her job at the time, Payne found herself at a crossroads. Rather than seeking an-

other position, she turned her energy toward creating a community-based solution: Summer Harvest. The nonprofit began with just 35 families, working in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Cypress. Over the years, the program has expanded significantly, now reaching hundreds of families across multiple cities. Summer Harvest’s grassroots model includes bi-weekly Saturday distribution pop-ups and food packaging every Friday. The effort is powered almost entirely by volunteers. Summer Harvest manages to continue operations, delivering groceries to more than 300 families. While the program has weathered many storms, challenges persist, particularly the lack of government funding and rising food costs paired with increasing demand. Donations remain vital to sustaining Summer Harvest. Despite these obstacles, the organization continues to thrive. Many individuals who once received assistance through the program are now returning as volunteers, eager to give back to the community. After 10 years, Summer Harvest remains committed to filling the gap left by school meal programs, assuring that no child goes hungry simply because school is out. To volunteer, receive groceries, or learn more, visit <https://www.summerharvest.us>.

### OCTA 605 Project Site Contact

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888-200-3302

605KatellaInfo@octa.net

@605Katella

Text 605Katella to 888-720-7016

Message and data rates apply



Los Alamitos Adopts Balanced Two-Year Budget with Projected Surplus and Service Upgrades

The Los Alamitos City Council has officially adopted its Biennial Operating Budget for Fiscal Years 2025–26 and 2026–27, laying out a fiscally responsible plan that not only balances revenues and expenditures but also projects modest surpluses in both years. The adopted budget forecasts a \$502,000 surplus in FY 2025–26 and a \$416,000 surplus in FY 2026–27, reflecting the City’s ongoing commitment to financial stability and long-term sustainability.

The adopted budget marks the sixth and seventh consecutive years that the City has achieved a funding surplus in funding due to the fiscally sound policies of the City Council and stewardship of the Executive staff.

The budget adoption followed a public hearing held in accordance with City Charter Sections 1201 through 1205, which require public participation in the budget process. This step ensures transparency and reinforces the City’s commitment to community engagement, allowing residents to provide feedback and help shape fiscal priorities.

The two-year budget, first introduced during a public study session, establishes projected total revenues of \$29.1 million in FY 2025–26 and \$29.4 million in FY 2026–27. Expenditures are expected to reach \$28.6 million and \$28.9 million, respectively. City officials attribute the resulting surplus to prudent fiscal management, conservative revenue estimates, and



deliberate efforts to control spending. City Manager Chet Simmons emphasized that the budget was crafted with an awareness of national economic uncertainty, including inflationary trends, fluctuating global markets, and evolving federal policies. Despite these challenges, the City has maintained a forward-thinking approach that allows for continued investment in essential services, infrastructure improvements, and organizational capacity-building.

Property tax revenues are anticipated to generate \$5.9 million in FY 2025–26 and \$6.0 million in FY 2026–27, reflecting healthy growth in the local housing market. Other tax sources, including Sales and Use Tax, Measure Y Local Sales Tax, Transit Occupancy Tax, and Business Licenses, are expected to collectively contribute

\$9.8 million in FY 2025–26. These funding streams form a critical foundation for the City’s ability to maintain and expand services.

The budget prioritizes funding for core service departments. The Police Department will receive the largest allocation, at \$9.5 million for FY 2025–26, underscoring the City’s ongoing commitment to public safety. Recreation and Community Services is allocated \$4.3 million to support a growing slate of programs and community offerings. Development Services is budgeted at \$7.4 million, reflecting the City’s focus on managing growth and development. Administration, Finance, and the City Council will receive \$1.6 million, with adjustments made to more accurately reflect day-to-day operations and internal support functions.

To further enhance service delivery, the City is adding four new staff positions across various departments. These include a Deputy Director in the Recreation & Community Services Department, a Maintenance Worker in Public Works, and two additional positions to address increasing demands in operations. These staffing increases are designed to support expanded programming, improve facility upkeep, and ensure effective service delivery.

A significant component of the adopted budget is the \$10 million allocation for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) in FY 2025–26. This

funding will support critical infrastructure upgrades, facility improvements, and the completion of deferred projects. CIP funding will be sourced through a combination of prior-year surpluses, investment maturities, and external grant opportunities.

In addition to operational and capital priorities, the City continues to take proactive steps to address long-term pension obligations. Under a financial policy established in 2022, the City will contribute an additional \$260,000 annually to its CalPERS Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL). Moreover, Los Alamitos will make monthly deposits of \$50,000 into a dedicated Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) trust fund, aimed at reducing future pension costs and enhancing financial resilience.



The Los Alamitos Government Finance Officers Association Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from 2015 to 2023.

Los Alamitos Honored as Tree City USA



The Los Alamitos City Council celebrated a new milestone in the city’s commitment to environmental stewardship: recognition as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. Development Services Manager Irving Montenegro Jr. announced the honor, marking the first time in several years that the city has received the national designation.

Tree City USA is a nationwide program launched by the Arbor Day Foundation in 1976 to recognize cities that demonstrate a strong commitment to urban forestry. Today, more than 3,600 communities across the United States participate in the program, which encourages municipalities to establish and maintain sound tree care and urban greening policies. To achieve Tree City USA status, Los Alamitos met four standards: estab-

lishing a tree board, adopting a tree ordinance, maintaining a community forestry program with a minimum budget of \$2 per capita, and holding an annual Arbor Day celebration.

Economic Development Assistant Taelor Pohl played a pivotal role in compiling and submitting the city’s application. Her efforts, along with support from Public Works and local partners, were integral in meeting the Arbor Day Foundation’s criteria.

West Coast Arborists currently maintains the city’s tree inventory, while Public Works supports planting efforts and overall landscape maintenance throughout the city.

Development Services Director Ron Noda noted that Epson and the Los Alamitos Community Foundation have also participated in the effort, purchasing trees and funding efforts to plant trees in local parks.

City officials say the benefits of being a Tree City USA go far beyond recognition. Healthier, greener public spaces, cooler neighborhoods, improved property values, and a stronger sense of community identity are just a few of the long-term impacts.

Looking ahead, the city plans to continue expanding its urban forest and developing partnerships with residents, businesses, and organizations to further its green goals.

Thursday, July 3, 2025

4:00 p.m. Gates Open

Gates close at 8:45 p.m. or when event reaches capacity

Fireworks Show begins approximately 9:00 p.m.

Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base

Enter through Lexington or Orangewood Gates

Los Alamitos

Seal Beach

UWS

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3RD of July

Fireworks Spectacular

At the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base

Seating and shade are not provided.

Bring lawn chairs, blankets & weighted canopies (max 10'x10' in size and must be taken down by dusk).

No pedestrians, walk-ins, or bicycles at the gate.

No pets (service dogs are allowed on post).

Minors without an I.D. must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

All vehicles may be subject to random vehicle inspections.

No outside alcohol permitted.

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Free to attend ★ Adults must have state/federal issued I.D. to enter (drivers must show valid Driver's License at gate).

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