

# **MONTEREY PARK** **Journal** *Monterey Park - Rosemead - Alhambra - San Gabriel - El Monte*

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## **Monterey Park**

# **Magazine declares City as No. 3 “Best Place to Live”**

By David Barron, Editor

Despite frequent complaints about traffic, airplane noise, high priced homes and rentals, lack of diverse shopping opportunities, Money Magazine, a national consumer financial publication, has named Monterey Park as one of the best places to live in America.

Money Magazine released its top 100 spots that reportedly offer a healthy economy, affordable housing and a high quality of life. Monterey Park ranked high at 3rd place in the list of best cities to live in.

The magazine described Monterey Park as a small city that offers plenty of recreational activities, especially for families.

Other top cities in the nation included Fishers, Indiana, which topped the list, followed by Allen, Texas. Santa Monica took the 18th spot and Los Alamitos made the cut as No. 60.

In its website, Money Magazine said that Monterey Park’s location offered a “relatively easy commute throughout the relatively pricey L.A. area.”

Thanks to city planners more than 50 years ago, the city also has 13 parks, much more than most suburban cities. The city also has two large city gymnasiums and the remodeled East L.A. Community College. Monterey Park’s close proximity to Los Angeles city and Pasadena makes it centrally located.

The city also has two large medical centers and is the heart of a huge medical industry.

Realtor.Com sponsors the Money Magazine article and survey. It stated that the median home price in the city is \$544,083, which is probably the price for a one-bedroom one-bath condo built 30 years ago or a post-World War II cottage built for returning GIs.

Meanwhile, many immigrants today share housing at illegal residential hotels and owners build illegal rooms in homes throughout the community to benefit from the additional income.

Although Monterey Park is famous for more than 100 quality Asian Restaurants, the city has only two Latino eateries, one Italian restaurant (in addition to a couple of Pizza outlets).

Monterey Park is also working on a 45-acre shopping center that will be anchored by Home Depot and Costco, plus several fast-food chain restaurants. Construction is now underway.

Traffic is a huge concern to residents, though. The San Gabriel Valley failed to get the 710 Freeway extension approved, resulting in a huge growth of east-west traffic through the city’s main streets and many residential streets.

Local residents avoid driving through Garfield and Atlantic streets that are north and southbound. Garvey Boulevard is the only major east-west bound street, resulting in traffic spilling over into residential streets.

The city’s lone attempt to get a dedicated bike path through an industrial park called Monterey Pass Road has been shelved because of the objections of property owners who do not want to share the road with bicyclists.

To increase city revenue, the city has been actively supporting the construction of hotels to serve the large number of Asian tourists that visit Southern California.

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**BEACHCOMBER****The speed of news scares us***By Dave Barron*

The lightening speed of information these days is amazing. It used to be that only radio could quickly report so-called "breaking news." Then came television, which was limited by availability of cameras and phone lines.

Smart phones and some cameras let you take a picture and immediately email it to social media or your favorite TV news station.

The only problem today is that all filters are gone. What do I mean by filters? It is the process of collecting news, editing it and double-checking the accuracy before publishing information in some format for public consumption.

News operations have armies of people reviewing information before anything is published. Even then, they sometimes screw up, just look at the daily "corrections article" published by the L.A. Times.

I don't publish anything that appears in Face Book or Twitter until it is checked-out. What appears is just the beginning of a story. It's gotten so bad that Face Book is now offering online classes to help people be more careful before they post information on their pages.

I do accept official press releases from government agencies and public safety agencies such as fire and police. Usually, those press releases are pretty well scrutinized by the companies and agencies before they are distributed.

I also accept articles from private individuals and organizations that I know.

I remember when I worked at a weekly newspaper during the Vietnam War and had the assignment of covering local military deaths.

Even though I had an official notice from the government, I would still go to the home of the deceased soldier to confirm the death with the family. It was an awful job, but I usually collected a photo of the soldier and some background information.

Today, news works so fast, that the government has to work very hard not to reveal the names of the casualty until a military representative delivers the news to the family.

There was a situation many years ago when a company I worked for had several fatalities from an industrial accident. Unfortunately, one victim's family was on a slow cross-country motor trip and could not be notified. This was before cell phones.

As a result, the name of the victim was not publicly released or published for nearly six weeks. This, despite the fact, that people in the community knew the name of the victim. It would have been terrible if family had learned about the loss of a loved one through Tweeter or Face Book.

Most of us post family and business information on social media, but some people can be very aggressive in posting bad news. So the next time you are posting "breaking news" about an incident in your neighborhood, be very careful. A simple thing like posting a picture of a car in an accident can set off alarms needlessly to a family.

**Monterey Park****Journal****& West Valley Journal**

Website: [www.SGVJournal.com](http://www.SGVJournal.com)

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*Contributors - Chuck Lyons, Bill Zieger, Margie Ramirez, Linda Wilson, John Gomez, Mary Ellen Barron, Shel Segal, Tara Kwan, Dave Munoz and many other individuals.*

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**Monterey Park Opposes  
End to DACA Program***By Tara Kwan*

Monterey Park's City Council demonstrated its commitment to its large immigrant population by passing Resolution No. 11964, "A resolution declaring the City of Monterey Park to be dedicated to preserving the rights of all persons within its jurisdiction; adopting interim policies; and directing the city manager and city attorney to provide additional information for implementing the intent of this declaration at the city council meeting on Wednesday, September 20.

This resolution was proposed by council member Peter Chan and all members, with the exception of Mitchell Ing who was not present, voted in favor of it. Its passage directs the city manager take such administrative actions that will implement the intent of this resolution in a reasonable manner.

The City of Monterey Park is "dedicated to preserving the rights of all persons within its jurisdiction", residents and visitors alike, regardless of their immigration status, the City resolution states.

President Trump's rescindment of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) on September 5th has struck worry and fear in the large immigrant community in California. This program was established in 2012 under an executive order by former President Obama and provided undocumented youth with the necessary document to pursue higher education or work.

There are currently around 800,000 such DACA recipients in the country whose lives will be turned upside down if Congress does not pass bipartisan legislation to protect them by March 5, 2018.

Currently, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services will not be accepting any new applications for DACA. Renewals were only be accepted until October 5, 2017.

California has taken steps in response to protect these DACA recipients.

On September 6, 2017, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra announced that California would file a lawsuit against the Trump administration because California has a plurality of DACA recipients and its economy will suffer adversely if legislation is not passed to address DACA's status.

**HomeWalk on Nov. 18 to Raise  
Funds for Homeless**

When it comes to walking the talk, one local resident is working very hard to make the homeless issue a thing of the past.

She is Claudia Andrade of Monterey Park who has emerged as one of the most fearless leaders for the 11th Annual HomeWalk scheduled on Nov. 18 in Los Angeles.

Andrade, an employee of SoCal Gas Company, last year led a team of over 1,300 of her colleagues to raise over \$165,000 for HomeWalk. This was the most money raised by a team.

The current homeless crisis in Los Angeles is being driven by a lack of affordable housing at every level and is expected to continue to rise given increasing rents across the county.

This year's HomeWalk intends to raise \$1.5 million that will all go directly into helping get people off the streets and into permanent supportive homes, the biggest fundraising goal set for this event to date.

Claudia is a lifelong resident of Monterey Park and works as the Community Relations manager for Southern California Gas Company. In that role she is involved directing the company's support for many non-profit institutions.

United Way of Greater Los Angeles announced registration is open for the 11th-annual HomeWalk. The 5K family run/walk to end homelessness will take place on November 18, 2017 at Grand Park in downtown Los Angeles.

Over the past 10 years, HomeWalk has successfully mobilized more than 85,000 people and raised \$7.6 million in funding, which directly helped to bring 18,000 of our homeless neighbors home for good. Currently, more than 57,000 individuals, families, and veterans are homeless in L.A. County.

This year's HomeWalk comes on the heels of the passage of Prop HHH and Measure H, which will bring \$4.5 billion for building permanent supportive housing and homeless services in Los Angeles over the next five years. While the city and county have taken a tremendous leap towards ending homelessness with this funding, more work is needed to reach that goal.

For more information on how to register and fundraise visit [unitedwayla.org/HomeWalk](http://unitedwayla.org/HomeWalk). You can also follow United Way of Greater Los Angeles on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter via @LAUnitedWay, #AmazingFeat, #HomeWalk, and #YesToHousing.





AWARD WINNER: Carol Sullivan, right, receives plaque and pin from Marta Escanuelas, resident of the East Los Angeles-Monebello Business and Professional Women (PPW). - Journal Photo

## Business women honor Carol Sullivan, volunteer

Monterey Park, CA—The East Los Angeles-Montebello Business and Professional Women (BPW) has selected community volunteer Carol Sullivan as its 2017 “Woman of Achievement.” She was honored at a dinner at MERCI, 525 N. Chandler Avenue, Monterey Park, on Wednesday, October 25th.

Sullivan is a member of the City of Monterey Park’s Community Participation Commission which plans the City’s annual trip to the Hollywood Bowl. She was co-chair of the City’s Centennial Committee and helped organize and plan the City of Monterey Park’s Centennial Dinner and other events for Monterey Park’s Centennial.

Sullivan has served on a number of city organizations including the Monterey Park Library Foundation, and Family Promise of San Gabriel Valley. She was on the City’s first Holiday Snow Village Committee. She is also a volunteer with the Greater Monterey Park Chamber of Commerce.

Sullivan was born in Hawaii, graduated from Mark Keppel High School and attended East Los Angeles College. This recognition program is part of East Los Angeles-Montebello BPW’s celebration of National Business Women’s Week® (NWBW). National Business Women’s Week® lets communities, companies and organizations celebrate the contributions of working women and companies that have made strides toward improving working women’s lives in their communities.

### Publication Schedule

Beginning November 1, the Journal will publish twice a month on the first and 15th of each month. Advertising will be published in both editions. For information please contact publisher at (626) 572-7450.

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## So. Garfield Village contract approved

By Tara Kwan

Monterey Park currently has various construction projects planned to revitalize the city, including improvements to the South Garfield Village Street. South Garfield Street refers to the location of Garfield Avenue from Pomona Boulevard to Floral Drive.

The Monterey Park City Council voted unanimously to award the contract to FS Contractors in the amount of \$827,836 at the October 4th meeting. The company has been in business since 2002 and has done similar projects as well as projects in Monterey Park before. Construction change orders and contingency of up to \$84,784, 10% of the contract, was also approved and \$100,000 from Measure R funds which will be allocated to help pay for the project.

The process for this project began on June 21, 2017 with the approved bid and specifications. The bid opened on September 7th and two bids were received in total with FS Contractors providing the lowest bid. It is anticipated that the project will start in early November and be completed between mid to late January. Construction will take place after rush hour to minimize the impact on traffic. The design features of this construction project include landscaped median islands, street tree replacement, mid-block crosswalk, bio-filtration planters, and a pedestrian hybrid beacon.

There will be a total of four separate landscaped median islands; each of the islands will be 10 feet wide. One of the islands will be 700 feet long and the remaining three islands will be 100 feet long each. They will feature a mixture of low-growth vegetation which will mainly consist of pink muhly and Munstead English lavender, drip-irrigation system, maintenance walk, and electrical conduit for future use.

Pink trumpet trees will replace the current ficus trees present on the street. It is a type of flowering tree with an open canopy which will not destroy the sidewalk. There will also be decorative well grates placed around the trees. The sidewalk will also undergo repairs.

A new mid-block crosswalk with bulb-outs, formed by pushing the curb about six feet out into the roadway, will be constructed in front of a car wash to Harmony Tree. This will calm down traffic since it reduces the width of the street and allows pedestrians to navigate one traffic direction at a time.

Bio-filtration planters are the stormwater feature of the project and they will be constructed to catch runoff from stormwater to better fulfill the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements.

Last but not least, a pedestrian hybrid beacon or pedestrian signal will be installed to make it easier for people to cross the street. The beacon will remain dark until a pedestrian presses the walk signal.

### Serving Monterey Park Since 1946



The Club was founded in 1946 and serves the community via park cleanups, community gardens, youth leadership programs, scholarships, etc. with our Mark Keppel High Interact Club and with the Boys and Girls Club of the West San Gabriel Valley.

## Monterey Park Rotary Club

For more information and to join, contact Dr. Jonathan Tam at (626) 282-8887 or [csila90210@gmail.com](mailto:csila90210@gmail.com).



# City Records Two Firsts at 'State of City' event

A standing room only crowd witnessed two "firsts" on Tuesday, Oct. 24 (2017) when Monterey Park City Mayor Teresa Real Sebastian presented her "State of the City" update report. The event happened on probably the hottest October 24th day in city history with temperatures exceeding 100 degrees. Temperature records were broken throughout Southern California.

The second "first" was the use of the historic El Encanto building, which serves as the home of the Greater Monterey Park Chamber of Commerce. Typically, the state of the city program is offered at local restaurants, costing residents to attend.

More than 90 people crowded into the modest size El Encanto building at 700 El Mercado Avenue, challenging the air conditioning system that was battling 103 degree outside temperatures at 4 p.m.

Mayor Real Sebastian reviewed the city's progress this past year with success in launching construction of the Market Place shopping center and two hotel developments. The projects will bring needed revenues to the city's coffers.

She also talked about the community's designation as one the top cities to live in the nation by Money Magazine.

City Clerk Vincent Chang, who served as master of ceremonies, led a "toast" to the city's future with a glasses of sparkling cider shared by all those attending. Thomas McCrady, Chaplin for the American Legion Post 987, presented the invocation.

A video of the Mayors presentation is available on You Tube at <http://www.montereypark.ca.gov/596/Program-Schedule>

In attendance were chamber members, residents and many local project developers. Chamber President Dora Leung thanked the volunteers and sponsors who made the event possible. Admission to the event was free, thanks to the support of many businesses and organizations.



MAYOR SPEAKS -- Teresa Real Sebastian, Monterey Park Mayor, speaks before crown at "State of City" event sponsored by the Greater Monterey Park Chamber of Commerce. Event was held at the historic El Encanto on October 24. -- Photo by Riccardo

## LAMP Optimist Club OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL Essay Contest

**Topic: "Can Society Function Without Respect?"**

**Eligibility:**

- ❖ under 18 years old as of October 1, 2017
- ❖ essay of 700-800 words
- ❖ completed and signed application
- ❖ proof of birth date

**Club Level Prize: \$100**

**District Level Prize: \$2,500**

**Due Date: January 31, 2018**

See application and official rules on back or contact Essay Chair for application and rules:

**Jeannie Lai**

[jeannelai618@gmail.com](mailto:jeannelai618@gmail.com)

[jeannelai618@gmail.com](mailto:jeannelai618@gmail.com)

Entries can also be emailed to essay chair along with completed & signed application and proof of birth date.



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## LAMP OPTIMIST CLUB

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# Calendar

## NOVEMBER

**Free Health Fair**, Saturday, Nov. 18 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Monterey Park City Hall, 320 W. Newmark Ave.

Free screenings No insurance required. Sponsored by Asian Pacific Health Corps of UCLA. Email questions to aphc.hf@gmail.com

**Dedication of New Garvey Ranch Basketball Court** on Saturday, Nov. 4, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Event will celebrate the designation of Monterey Park as one of the best cities to live in. Celebration will include food and activities. Garvey Ranch Park is located at 781 Orange Ave.

### Sign-ups begin for Police Department Citizens Academy

For community members looking for an insider's view of the Monterey Park Police Department, the Citizens Academy may be just what they're seeking. Sign-ups are now beginning for Citizens Academy provides an informative course that meets once a week for eleven weeks.

The academy is designed to provide residents and non-residents an interactive, hands-on, comprehensive overview of the Monterey Park Police Department and the city.

The class meets Thursday evenings for eleven weeks from 6:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. The first class will be held at the City Hall Community Room #102, on Thursday January 25, 2018.

Applications can be picked up in the Monterey Park Community Services Bureau at 320 W. Newmark Ave.

Minimum age of participants is 16 years; minors under the age of 18 years must have a signed parental consent form on file.

Participants cannot have any felony convictions, be on parole or probation, or have been arrested within the past year. Participants do not need to be Monterey Park residents to enroll in this class.

### San Gabriel Police Gets \$110,000 grant

San Gabriel – The San Gabriel Police Department has been awarded a \$110,000.00 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long program of special enforcement and public awareness efforts to prevent traffic related deaths and injuries.

The San Gabriel Police Department will use the funding as part of the city's ongoing program to keep roadways safe through both enforcement and education.

## Teen driver death rate increasing, Police say

Monterey Park Police Department wants to draw public attention to nationwide death rate for teen drivers. Police observed National Teen Driver Safety Week, October 15-21.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that nationwide in 2015, 1,972 drivers, age 15-18, were involved in fatal collisions. In 2015, in California, 283 teens were behind the wheel at the time of fatal collisions, and 63 percent of those young drivers were at fault.

Police say car crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers ahead of all other types of injury, disease or violence. To shed light on this epidemic and reduce the number of lives lost, the

Teen Driver Safety Week will help parents focus attention on setting rules for their teen driver before allowing them to get behind the wheel. Parents and guardians must set firm driving rules to impact their teen's driving behavior. They can be the difference between life and death.

Inexperience is one of the leading causes of teen collisions. The most important thing a parent can do for a new teen driver is to stay involved in their driving life. Take frequent drives with your newly licensed teens to monitor their progress. Parents can reduce the dangerous and sometimes deadly behaviors, such as alcohol consumption, driving without seat belts, speeding, carrying extra passengers, and driving distracted.

"Cell phone use continues to be a serious and often deadly distraction for all drivers, but it's a significant problem among young, inexperienced drivers," said Rhonda Craft, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety. "If you're a parent, guardian, or mentor to a teen driver, lead by example and encourage them to put the phone down and focus on the road. No text message or social media post is more valuable than their lives or the lives of others around them."

As part of its commitment to educating the motoring public, there are programs for teen drivers and their families:

"Start Smart" conducted by law enforcement personnel is a driver safety education class that targets new and future licensed drivers between the ages of 15-19 and their parents/guardians.

The CHP has released a mobile application (app) for "Start Smart," designed to assist young people through the process of obtaining their California driver license. The app includes a step-by-step guide covering everything from the Department of Motor Vehicles Driver Handbook and the final steps for obtaining a provisional license, to ultimately achieving an unrestricted California driver license.

"Every 15 Minutes" focuses on high school juniors and seniors, challenging them to think about drinking, driving, personal safety, the responsibility of making mature decisions, and the impact their decisions have on family, friends, and many others.

"Impact Teen Drivers," a non-profit organization parented with CHP is dedicated to saving lives through evidence-based educational programs that support good decision-making strategies behind the wheel.

"California Friday Night Live Partnership," working with high schools and middle schools to educate teens about traffic safety and impaired driving awareness including town hall meetings, prom related campaigns, and parent awareness programming.

Source: Police Department Press Release

"The Power to Youth and the Power of Parents," MADD's multi-sensory high school assembly education program

highlighting the dangers of teen impaired driver.

"Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)," educating and bring awareness to California communities of the human toll caused by alcohol related crashes to high school and middle school programs.

The Monterey Park Police Department is aware of the importance of role models in a youth's development. Parents and others setting the example, and education of new drivers and their families, is regarded as a critical function to help keep everyone safe while driving.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**Monterey Park City Council meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in city hall?**

# GIANT YARD SALE

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**LAMP Optimist Club.** Meets twice monthly at Monterey Park City Hall. For meeting information call (626) 572-7450.

**Eastside Optimist Club.** Meets monthly at local restaurants. For meeting information call (626) 282-9210

**Rosemead Kiwanis.** Meets on Thursdays at noon in meeting room of the Church of the Open Bible, 7915 Hellman Ave., Rosemead. For meeting information call (626) 572-7450.

**Monterey Park Kiwanis Club.** Meets weekly at Capital Seafood Restaurant, 755 Garvey Ave, Monterey Park. For meeting information call (626) 840-5240.

**Monterey Park Lions Club:** Meets weekly at Lions Manor, 215 N. Chandler Ave. For Information call (626) 428-1877.

## Medical Services

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## Cameras

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## Chambers of Commerce

**Greater Monterey Park Chamber** of Commerce (626) 570-9024. [www.mpkchamber.com](http://www.mpkchamber.com)

**Rosemead Chamber** of Commerce: (626) 288-0811. [www.rosemeadchamber.org](http://www.rosemeadchamber.org)

**San Gabriel Chamber** of Commerce: (626) 576-2525. [www.Sangabrielchamber.org](http://www.Sangabrielchamber.org).

**Montebello Chamber of Commerce:** (323) 721-1153, [www.montebellochamber.org](http://www.montebellochamber.org)

## Libraries

Monterey Park, 318 S. Ramona St. (626) 307-1333. [www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us/library](http://www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us/library)

Rosemead, 8800 Valley Blvd., Rosemead (626) 573-5220. [www.colapublib.org/lib/rosemead](http://www.colapublib.org/lib/rosemead).

San Gabriel, 500 So. Del Mar Ave. San Gabriel. [www.colapublib.org/lib/sangabriel](http://www.colapublib.org/lib/sangabriel)

Alhambra Public Library; 101 S. 1st St. Alhambra (626) 5008. [www.alhambralibrary.org](http://www.alhambralibrary.org).

Montebello Library: 1550 W. Beverly Blvd. Montebello. (323) 722-6551. [www.colapublib.org/montebello](http://www.colapublib.org/montebello).

East Los Angeles Public Library: 4837 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, (323) 264-0155.

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## Favorite Restaurants

Taihei Restaurant, 2115 IS. Garfield Ave. M.P. Authentic Japanese food. Cost \*\*\*

Armando's Mexican Restaurant at E. Garvey Ave. M.P.

Mexicatessen, 830 S. Atlantic Blvd, M.P. Limited seating, indoors and outdoors. Cost: \*\*

Di Pillas Italian Restaurant, 9013 E. Valley Blvd, Rosemead. Cost \*\*\*

Diner At Main, 201 W. Main St. Alhambra. Cost \*\*\*

Carrows on South Atlantic Blvd. at the Prado Center, Monterey Park

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## City Governments

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**Rosemead:** (626) 569-2100

**Alhambra:** (626) 570-5007  
([cityofalhambra.org](http://cityofalhambra.org))

**Montebello:** (323) 887-1200  
[www.cityofmontebello.com](http://www.cityofmontebello.com)

**San Gabriel:** (636) 308-2816  
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## Welcome

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( & Renewing)

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• Monterey Park Journal

## Greater Monterey Park Chamber of Commerce

For Membership Information Call  
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## FSIC Investments

Notes - Real Estate -  
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Caleb Kwok, Principal

2089 S Atlantic Blvd., Suite E  
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## City Gives green light to Atlantic Blvd. traffic signal sychronization

By Tara Kwan

The City of Monterey Park formally awarded the public works contract in the amount of \$367,208.00 to synchronize traffic signals for a majority section of North Atlantic Boulevard stretching from Hellman Avenue south to Newmark Avenue.

The traffic signal synchronization project was awarded to Comet Electric at the city council meeting of Wednesday, September 20.

The city council unanimously voted to approve the contract with the exception of council member Mitchell Ing who was not present at the meeting. This project has pre-approved funding of \$422,289.00 from local Measure R tax funds.

The cost of the project will be reimbursed by Metro at a later time period. Metro is currently working on the funding agreement between the city and itself which should be completed in early October.

Construction change orders and contingency of up to \$55,081.00 or up to 15% of the contract project has been approved.

This project will upgrade a total of (7) traffic signal lights on North Atlantic Boulevard, from Hellman Avenue to Newmark Avenue; Atlantic at Hellman; Atlantic at the Atlantic Times Square driveway; Atlantic at Emerson; Atlantic at Mar Center/Ralphs; Atlantic at Garvey; Atlantic at Newmark; and Atlantic Driveway at Hellman .

Essentially, the traffic signals will undergo modifications to be wirelessly connected to one another, have countdown pedestrian heads, and high-visibility crosswalks. The traffic light on Atlantic Times Square driveway at Hellman will only have the wireless interconnection upgrade. There will be additional modifications at specific traffic lights. The northbound right turn lane will be restriped at the Atlantic on Hellman traffic light. The Atlantic on Atlantic Times Square driveway traffic light will have a vehicle detection system installed. The Atlantic on Emerson traffic light will have a new northbound right turn lane and a protected permissive left turn phase will be installed. The Atlantic on Mar Center/Ralphs traffic light will also have a protected left turn phase installed. The Atlantic on Garvey traffic light will have its northbound and southbound striping adjusted and a new video detection system.

The wireless connection technology is more cost effective than the older, hard wire system and it allows the traffic signals to synchronize with one another. The signals would sequence to keep the traffic flowing north and south bound. However, this could possibly lead to slightly longer wait times at traffic lights for motorists waiting to get onto Atlantic from Emerson or Hellman.

The crosswalks will be repainted with special paint containing reflective thermoplastic beads that is thicker and longer lasting compared to regular paint. This will make the crosswalks more visible and safer for pedestrians.

Comet Electric, the company tasked to undertake this project, was founded in 1976 and has been in the transportation industry since the early 1990s. The company has completed projects in the Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties so it is familiar with city standards. Tim Erno, vice president of transportation, estimates that the project will be started and completed in January of 2018.

### *Psychic Readings* By Dora Blackman

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**Marta Escañuelas**

## MERCI to honor retiring director at holiday fund raiser

Monterey Park - On Sunday, December 3, 2017 MERCI will host its 28th annual "Trees of Enchantment" fundraiser at Almansor Court – Lakeside Room, 700 S. Almansor Street, Alhambra.

This will also be a retirement celebration for Marta Escañuelas, who has served as the Executive Director of MERCI for 22 years and been in the human services professions for 40 years.

The champagne brunch starts at 11:00 a.m. Tickets are \$65 each or \$45 for children 5-12, if purchased in advance. Children under the age of 5 eat free. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://merci.givezooks.com/events/28th-annual-trees-of-enchancement-brunch>.

Tickets purchased at the door are \$75 each or \$55 for children 5-12.

Escañuelas has been the Executive Director of MERCI since 2005 returning to the position after three years working for the San Gabriel Schools.

In her position at MERCI She led a building project which built a new group home for six adults called "John and Mary's Place," a new Administration Building and a new Multipurpose Building. The project started with the City of Monterey Park awarding \$829,000 in HUD funds for part of the cost of the project. She went on to work with Genesis, LA and the Non-profit Finance Fund and other agencies to provide the needed loan funds to complete the buildings and with donors and foundations to help fund the projects. Escañuelas is a past President of Monterey Park Rotary and current President of East Los Angeles-Montebello Business and Professional Women (BPW).

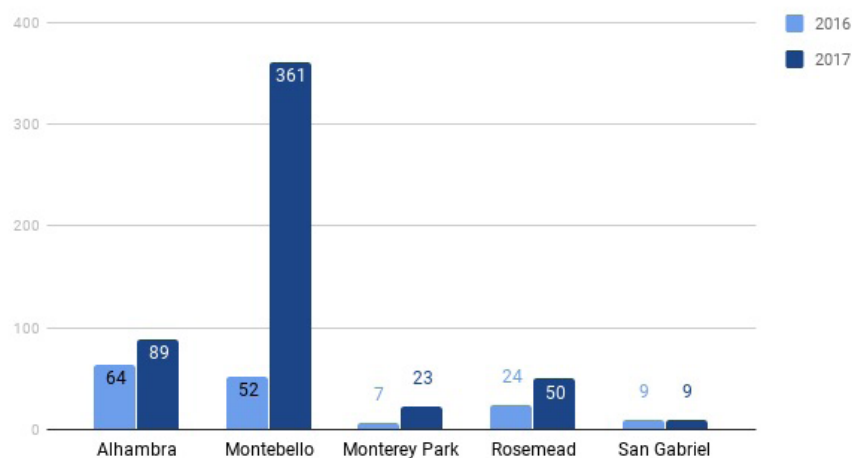
Escañuelas served on the Mt. Baldy Community Association, has been the Chair of the Mt. Baldy Run to the Top, has written grants for thousands of dollars to benefit the community and foster parents abandoned dogs.

### Andrew Yam Awarded Eagle Scout Rank



Monterey Park resident Andrew Yam was recently awarded the Eagle Scout award, the highest rank for the Boy Scouts of America. He is a member of Scout Troop 301. He is a graduate of Mark Keppel High School and is now attending University of California at Irvine. He is the son of Janet Yu and Charles Yam.

### Homeless Population Count



## Homeless Count Up in San Gabriel Valley Communities

By Tara Kwan

Imagine that you are on the streets on a cold night without any shelter and wondering when your next meal will be. It is a difficult life yet this is the reality for far too many people. Homelessness is an issue that is unfortunately growing bigger and more visible in the San Gabriel Valley.

Daniella Alcedo, a Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) regional coordinator, came to the Monterey Park city council meeting on September 6th to present the results from the 2017 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count.

The 2017 results found that 57,794 people are experiencing homelessness on any given night which is about a 23% increase from the 2016 total of 46,874. In the San Gabriel valley, LAHSA found that 3,552 people are experiencing homelessness on a given night which is about a 36% increase from the 2016 total of 2,612 people.

The cities of Alhambra, Monterey Park, Montebello, and Rosemead all experienced an increase in the number of homeless people from 2016 to 2017. San Gabriel's number of homeless people remained the same, 9 people in both years. Alhambra experienced approximately a 39.1% increase, from 64 to 89 homeless people.

In contrast, the number of homeless people in Monterey Park, Montebello, and Rosemead increased dramatically. Monterey Park's numbers rose from 7 to 23 which is about a 228.6% increase whereas Rosemead's numbers shifted from 24 to 50 which is approximately a

108.3% increase. Montebello's population of homeless people was the highest recorded change; it experienced a 594.2% increase from 52 people in 2016 to 361 people in 2017.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), homelessness is defined as "individuals and families who live in a place not meant for human habitation (including the streets or in their car), emergency shelter, transitional housing, and hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization." The HUD mandates that the homeless count is conducted annually within the last 10 days of January. LAHSA works with cities and volunteers for the count every year. Monterey Park's current mayor, Teresa Real Sebastian, has assisted in the count herself.

Although the situation for the homeless population in Los Angeles county may not seem optimistic, Measure H which instituted a sales tax generating \$355 million annually and Proposition HH which is a \$1.2 billion bond are expected to alleviate the conditions for the homeless. The money will be used to provide housing, enhance the emergency shelter system, and sustain programs aimed to prevent as well as tackle homelessness.

The 2018 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count will take place from January 22nd to 25th. More detailed information on the 2017 count can be found on the LAHSA website at <https://www.lahsa.org/homeless-count/home>.

**Editor's Note: Tara Kwan is a contributor to the Journal.**

**Kyle's Corner**

## Review of Stan Lee's ComicCon

By Kyle Chang

When people talk about Comic Con the first thing that comes into people's minds is the event that's held in San Diego each year. But how many of you know that since 2011 Los Angeles has been hosting its own Comic Con?

Founded initially as Comikaze Expo and then later Stan Lee's Comikaze Expo. Stan Lee's L.A. Comic Con is a three-day event held during the fall at the Los Angeles Convention Center. L.A. Comic Con encompasses several genres, including comic, horror, sci-fi, anime, gaming, and pop culture, with a particular focus on the Los Angeles Community.

This was my second year going to L.A. Comic Con as I went last year all three days as well. Some of the guests this included Dwayne Johnson, Paul Reubens, Drew Carrey, Melissa Joan Hart-just to name a few. And of course the main man himself Stan Lee.

The line to meet Stan Lee was well over three to five hours long and did cost extra for those who wanted the Marvel Comic's Legend. As usual several guests in attendance were also cosplayers.

In the Main Exhibition Hall there were several vendors selling various entertainment related merchandise and products-comic books, t-shirts, etc or promoting upcoming films and television shows.

Several Panels were held on the Main Stage in the Exhibition Hall along with a Kid's only cosplay contest on Sunday.

There were also several panels being held in the Meeting Rooms on the third and fourth floor. Topics included cosplay, Disney, Tolkien, Star Wars, JK Rowling's Wizarding World and much more.

The three days went rather smoothly compared to the Anime Expo held earlier in the Summer. As the line for badge redemption did not take that long and the line to get in moved rather smoothly.

All guests who attended this year will receive a one year subscription to Entertainment Weekly Magazine.

Stan Lee's L.A. Comic Con is quickly growing into of the premiere events in the entertainment industry and for Con and Expo Fans.

**Note: Kyle Chang is a contributor covering Internet and restaurants.**