A Message from the City Manager...

With the leadership of the Mayor and City Council, the dedication of our staff that truly values public service, and the energies and commitment of citizens and business owners, great things lie ahead for our great City. Working together, we are building a brighter future! As much as our efforts affect today’s residents, it is the legacy that we leave for tomorrow’s generations and leaders of our community. I encourage you all to take an active role in your local government by attending or watching the City Council meetings, or participate and volunteer. We believe in open government, and it is only through interaction with our citizens that we can move the City in the direction our citizens wish.

It’s hard to believe that 2018 has come to an end and it has been a busy year for the City of Los Alamitos that has been filled with many accomplishments. One major project completion is the Los Alamitos Blvd. Beautification Project. We were able to have a celebration and ribbon cutting this past November. Another important accomplishment is the start of the Marriott Hotel Project. We look forward to the future opening and making even more progress with the projects on the horizon.

The City Council and staff are dedicated and committed to fairness and working on behalf of all in our community. It is my honor and privilege to serve as your City Manager and I’m grateful for the support of the Mayor and City Council. I welcome the opportunity to hear from you on whatever concern or matter you may have.

Council Reorganization - In Los Alamitos, Council Members are elected by the people and serve for a four year term. Elections occur every November in even years. New Council Members are installed and take their oath and we thank outgoing Council Members for their dedicated service. At the December 2018 Council Meeting we were able to recognize and thank Mayor Troy Edgar for his 12 years of dedicated service to the City of Los Alamitos and the Council reorganizes and votes for the Mayor amongst each other.
Hometown Celebrity Nikki Monninger -

At the December 10, 2018 Council Meeting we recognized Hometown Celebrity, Nikki Monninger Bassist for Silversun Pickups. The City of Los Alamitos recognizes citizens who started in Los Alamitos and have gone on to achieve great success. A Hometown Celebrity is someone who has or is attending school, living and working or serving the City of Los Alamitos, is well known, highly regarded or is nationally recognized; will attract recognition to the City of Los Alamitos; and, is not holding or running for office as an elected official.

Nikki Monninger grew up in the Greenbrook track of Los Alamitos, attended St. Hedwig, Pine (McAuliffe) Middle School, and Los Alamitos High School. She went on to meet Brian Aubert and formed Silversun Pickups, an alternative rock band in 2000. The Silversun Pickups has had 13 singles on the Billboard Top 100, including “Panic Switch” peaking at the number 1 spot. The band is also Grammy nominated and has appeared on several national television shows including the David Letterman Show.

At the Council Meeting Nikki Monniger was recognized by our City Council for her accomplishments and she donated and signed a guitar that will be placed in the Los Alamitos Museum. She was inducted into the Museum's Hall of Fame on Saturday, February 2nd.

Zoning Code Updates -

Zoning Code Update Continues – Six of the Planning Commissioners met with Staff and Consultants from MIG at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13th to conduct a Study Session concerning the progress of the Zoning Code Update project to date. The Consultants also spent time requesting direction from Commissioners concerning certain code subjects that are in need of clarification prior to completion of the draft, such as parking, architecture, and density requirements. The next step of the project will see the Consultants submitting drafts of sections to the Staff for their edits over the next month. The draft code will begin to be presented to the Planning Commission beginning with the January 23, 2019 meeting.

On January 1, 2019 all commercial properties in the City who generate four cubic-yards or more of trash service per-week are required by State law to have a recycling program in place for their organic waste material. Organic waste materials may consist of the following:

- Food waste
- Green waste
- Landscape and pruning waste
- Nonhazardous wood waste; and
- Food-soiled paper waste that is mixed in with food waste

Based on these qualifications, your property may be subject to California's Mandatory Organics (and Food Waste) Recycling Law (AB1826), but has still not adopted the required organics and food waste recycling program offered in partnership by the City's franchised waste hauler, Republic Services.

The City of Los Alamitos also offers a free direct assistance program through its expert commercial waste consultant (Michael Balliet Consulting LLC). They are available to perform an on-site evaluation of your current waste services, and develop cost-effective compliance strategies. We urge you to participate in this free consultation program. Please contact Michael Balliet Consulting LLC directly at 949-378-2205 or mballiet61@gmail.com.
Almost two-thirds of all home fire deaths occur in homes with no working smoke alarm. Protect your family by installing smoke alarms, inspecting them regularly, and practicing home fire drills.

**Install**
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, in hallways outside bedrooms or sleeping areas, and on every level of the home.
- Install smoke alarms on the ceiling or high on a wall. Make sure they’re at least 10 feet from the stove and three feet from doors leading to the kitchen to reduce false alarms.
- Keep smoke alarms away from bathrooms with tubs or showers, heating or cooling ducts or vents, and ceiling or whole-house fans.
- Check the back for the manufacture date. Replace all alarms when they’re 10 years old.
- Use interconnected smoke alarms. When one sounds, they all sound.
- It’s safest to use both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms. Ionization alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires.
- Special alarms with strobe lights and bed shakers are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**Inspect**
- Test all smoke alarms once a month.
- Follow the manufacture’s instructions for cleaning to keep smoke alarms working well.

**Protect**
- Draw a home escape plan that shows two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place.
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do if they hear it.
- Practice home fire drills at least twice a year.

Orange County Fire Authority Installing Free Smoke Alarms in Los Alamitos
In September the Orange County Fire Authority partnered with the City of Los Alamitos, the American Red Cross, and area volunteers to install free 10-year smoke alarms for residents of the Carrier Row residential neighborhood.

FIVE WAYS TO PROTECT MAIL & PACKAGES

1. **Don’t leave delivered mail and packages unattended.** Just as wallets and purses shouldn’t be left on the front seat of an unlocked car overnight, mail and packages shouldn’t be left uncollected in mailboxes or on front porches for any length of time.

2. **Going out of town? Hold mail at the local Post Office.** Instead of risking leaving a package unattended for an extended period of time, customers planning on being away from home for a few days are encouraged to take advantage of the Hold Mail service on USPS.com. Letters and packages will be held securely at the local Post Office until the customers return.

3. **Plan ahead. Ship using Hold for Pickup.** When shipping packages, customers can choose the Hold for Pickup option, and the recipients can collect the packages, they can redirect incoming packages to their local Post Office by selecting Hold for Pickup using USPS Package Intercept on USPS.com.

4. **Customize the delivery.** If the package doesn’t fit in the mailbox and the customer won’t be home to receive it, the customer can provide delivery instructions online and authorize the carrier to leave it in a specified location. Visit USPS.com, enter the tracking number and select Delivery Instructions.

5. **Secure the shipment using USPS Special Services.** Signature Confirmation helps ensure the package ends up in the right hands by requiring a signature at the time of delivery. For the most valuable packages, customers can opt for Registered Mail service. A Registered Mail piece receives special handling from the time it’s mailed until its delivered, documenting the chain of custody.
Winter Wonderland -

The 7th Annual Winter Wonderland held at St. Isidore Historical Plaza and Pine Street, and co-sponsored by the City of Los Alamitos and the Los Alamitos Area Chamber of Commerce, and presented by Friday Night Lights was a great success on Saturday, December 1st. Back-to-back stage performances, snow sledding, Santa's Village, family fun zone, arts and crafts, food trucks, and approximately 50 vendor booths was enjoyed by all who attended. The community looks forward to this event each year as it has become an annual tradition.

Beautification Ribbon Cutting -

The Celebration of the Beautification of Los Alamitos event on Monday, November 5th was a success with over 200 community members in attendance. The event entailed three performing groups including McAuliffe Middle School String Orchestra, Oak Middle School Advanced Band, and Los Alamitos High School Women's Choir, appetizers from Wahoo's and Mama's Kitchen, 10 local business vendor booths who participated free of charge, Los Alamitos Police Dept., five children's game booths and two bounce houses provided by the City. The City is very appreciative of the Los Alamitos Unified School District for supporting the event and providing the music groups.

Seal Beach Christmas Parade -

The City of Los Alamitos would like to thank the City of Seal Beach in being a great community partner throughout 2018. The City of Los Alamitos City Council and City Manager really enjoyed participating in the 2018 Seal Beach Christmas parade!