



PRESS RELEASE

City of Los Alamitos
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Celebrate Los Al

Los Alamitos, CA – The City of Los Alamitos Recreation and Community Services Department held the MemorialCare Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital Long Beach Celebrate Los Al event on Saturday, September 16, 2023. The fun-filled all day event centered around the short strip of Pine Street between Florista Street and Katella Avenue in Los Alamitos. The day was split in two starting with the Universal Waste Systems Race Los Al 5K/10K at 7:30 a.m. followed by the Street Fair from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Activities included a race through the streets of Los Alamitos, beverage garden, Los Al Carnival, game booths, stage performances, Veterans Recognition, Pine StrEATS restaurant food tasting, Public Safety Fair, and a family friendly Glow Run.

The day began with the Universal Waste Systems 5K/10K race early Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. with approximately 300 participants, however, participants began to fill the streets about one hour prior. Senator Janet Nguyen and Mayor Tanya Doby kicked off the race. The start and finish lines were located at the intersection of Florista Street and Pine Street and featured a race announcer, music, snacks, coffee from Other Side of Coffee Co, and burritos from Nick’s Deli. The race kicked off without a hitch as runners

took the streets of Los Alamitos looping through Los Alamitos Boulevard, Cerritos Avenue, and Bloomfield Avenue. At the end, every participant also received a Race Los Al medal and were invited to return for Street Fair later that afternoon.

Following Race Los Al, Serve Los Al took place on Friday, September 15 and Saturday, September 16. Serve Los Al is a community wide service event where volunteers within the community help at local non-profit organizations and other projects such as Park Clean Up and window washing at Royal Oak Mobile Home Park. Saturday morning started with an Assembly at 8:30 a.m. at the Oak Middle School Outdoor Amphitheater. At the Assembly, volunteers received a volunteer t-shirt and were provided with snacks and burritos from Nick's Burritos. Water was also provided for volunteers thanks to Golden State Water. Senator Janet Nguyen and Mayor Tanya Doby gave a speech to the volunteers, thanking them for their service and the Assembly commenced with a group photo. After the Assembly, volunteers dispersed to their project sites to help make a difference in our City. There were approximately 60+ volunteers on Saturday and another 20 on Friday. The event turned out to be a great success and it is events like Serve Los Al that really exemplify the togetherness and heart of our community.

As Celebrate Los Al continued on, the finishing touches were applied to the event area. Autumn's warm colors swept through the grounds filled with leaves, pumpkins, and straw bales. Vendors neatly arranged their table as the first wave of visitors began to make their way into the event at 4:00 p.m. They were immediately greeted by the approximately 20-foot slide only being overshadowed by the towering adjacent Ferris wheel. The

carnival area provided families with a chance to play any of the nine game booths or seven carnival rides available. Tickets were sold for \$2 each, but those looking to get the most out of their day could opt for an unlimited wristband for \$10. For those little ones looking for something on the tamer side, balloon and face painting artists were also available for free.

For those looking to take a break from the carnival, the Pine StrEATs event, led by the City of Los Alamitos Development Services Department, featured multiple local Los Alamitos restaurants. Local restaurants were eligible to receive a grant to subsidize costs and help promote local eateries. At Pine StrEATs the community had the opportunity to discover new restaurants through sample meals. Tickets were sold in bundles of 3 for a reasonable price of \$1 with 14 food vendors to choose from. Both the Carnival and Pine StrEATS benefited the Los Alamitos Community Foundation.

Down Pine Street, 27 commercial vendors lined the walkway ranging from small, independent entrepreneurs to larger, established organizations. In between all of this was the Beverage Garden hosted by the Los Alamitos Community Foundation. This area provided refreshments and seating to sit back and temporarily relax from the buzz of the fair. Thanks to Gladiator Entertainment Trailers, which included serving bar, sound equipment, and multiple 4k displays, participants received an elevated entertainment experience. Various alcoholic beverages were offered for a modest price of \$5 as well as a couple of non-alcoholic options.

As participants made their way to the main stage, they also had the opportunity to stop by the Public Safety Fair. This new area was made possible by the host agency Los

Alamitos Police Department, in collaboration with Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and Falck Ambulance Services. Visitors were not only encouraged to ask questions but take part in a special sneak peek opportunity of a few emergency response vehicles and special equipment. A few notable vehicles included the Lenco BearCat, Mobile Incident Command Post, and an ambulance.

For those looking to bust a move, the main stage area had people covered with various musical acts like Buffet Beach and Just Daves Band. Line dance instructor, Cindi, also took to the dance floor to give a few brave participants lessons. Further, a Veteran's Recognition Ceremony celebrated and honored World War II and Korean War Veterans. Mayor Tanya Doby gave a wonderful tribute to Los Alamitos Veterans, joined by Council Members Shelley Hasselbrink, Emily Hibard, and Trisha Murphy. U.S. Representative of the 45th District, Michelle Steel, District Representative Michelle Schuetz from Assembly Member Tri Ta, and District Representative Ben Montelongo on behalf of Senator Janet Nguyen joined in the recognition of these honorable Veterans including:

- Henning "Mike" Nilsson – Korean War
- Paul Edward Irvin – Korean War
- Wayne Frederick Kriehn – Korean War
- George Berlacher – U.S. Air Force
- Maurice Kalfus – World War II
- Benjamin Avalos – WWII Army
- Joe Ramirez – Cold War
- Marolyn Briese – Korean War Navy

Some Veterans were not able to be present but were still honored at the event.

The night closed out at 10 pm with the annual Glow Run & Glide. 500 people registered for this fun, one mile night race. Families were invited to dress up in their best glow in dark accessories and join others as they raced and danced through the surrounding neighborhood. Recreation Staff also set up streamers, a glow in the dark photo backdrop, and a glow tunnel. The entire Celebrate Los Al event was a resounding success with over 7,000 attendees coming together to celebrate the lively spirit of the City of Los Alamitos.







