



PRESS RELEASE

City of Los Alamitos
Contact: Recreation and Community Services
(562) 430 – 1073
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Senior Prom

Los Alamitos, CA – The City of Los Alamitos Recreation & Community Services Department held its 8th annual Senior Prom event on Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post 716 (3252 Florista St.). The 50+ community was invited to participate in this reimagined night of an age-old High School tradition. The Senior Prom was created to provide older adults in the community with more opportunities for social gatherings. The event was organized by Recreation Coordinator Gilberto Arteaga-Ceja with assistance from Recreation Specialist Dante Lostracco. Council Member Trisha Murphy also made a special appearance.

The community was invited to a themed evening featuring dancing, live music, a catered dinner, a crowning ceremony, a photo booth, a caricature artist, a sweets table, a beverage bar, and door prizes. Tickets were available for purchase at an \$8 presale fee or \$10 at the door.

The program was all stripes with a carnival-themed event. The space was reinvigorated with colorful wall décor, hundreds of balloons, stuffed circus animals, carnival-themed sweets, popcorn bucket-inspired floral centerpieces, and more. The drums were beating, and the bass was punching as the popular King Salmon and the Funk Yard Horns band kicked things off at 3 p.m., following a few welcoming words by the night's host, Dante Lostracco.

As everybody settled down at their table, a friendly surprise awaited them under their mini big tops. Every guest received a mini-stuffed lion, monkey, bear, seal, elephant, bear, or pig. A few additional lucky visitors also found themselves snatching a small gift card hidden underneath their tents. Everybody was a winner tonight.

These magical moments could not have been possible without the coordinated support of the Recreation Staff and event sponsors.

- Forest Lawn (Community Sponsor)
- Los Alamitos Senior Club (Beverage Sponsor)



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As the party was in full effect, a short break was taken at 4 p.m. to announce the Prom King and Queen. This year's winners were a lovely couple who attended the event as matching mimes. Their outfits showcased the spirit of the celebration from head to toe. The winners received golden, bedazzled crowns and a complimentary sash. The couple was excited but did their best to stay in character. The band played a couple more hits before taking a break to allow people to enjoy dinner and mingle with their new friends.

Dinner was catered by Naples Rib Company and featured tri-tip, barbecue chicken, mashed potatoes, roasted vegetables, and cornbread—a fitting family-style meal for the carnival-themed extravaganza. Along with their dinner, guests could stop by the bar and receive a free alcoholic beverage courtesy of the Los Alamitos Senior Club, the Beverage Sponsor for the event.

Guests continued to enjoy their dinner as the band took to the stage again to reinvigorate the crowd from their gratifying food coma. The electrifying tunes jumpstarted the room, and the party was back on. Guests took turns taking pictures in front of the carnival-inspired red and white striped backdrop framed by a spiral of red, yellow, and blue balloons. A few steps away, the caricature artist waived their magic marker in a frenzy of carefully calculated strokes, transforming anybody willing to take the time to sit still for a minute or two into a lighthearted animated version of themselves.

If attendees weren't dancing, posing for a photo, exploring their artistic side, or socializing by the bar, they might be grabbing a snack at the sweets table. Items included cracker jacks, lollipop swirls, cotton candy, popcorn stand, circus cookies, red vines, mini bubblegum dispensers, cupcakes, pretzels, and the popular "twinkie-dog." If all this was not enough, every participant received a prize drawing ticket at check-in for a final giveaway.

Around 5:30 p.m., Dante announced the final portion of the event including multiple giveaways. The band synchronized a suspenseful drumroll as ticket numbers were called one by one, announcing winnings totaling over \$200 in gift cards. Donations were provided by the following businesses.

- Chick-Fil-A
- Nick's Deli
- Vons
- Casitas De Amigos
- Paul's Place
- Mama's Comfort Food



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Although every guest left a memorable imprint on the evening, one story stood out. One of the event's many highlights included a couple visiting from out of town. They were each other's High School Prom dates who parted ways soon after graduating. They reunited this year after not hearing from each other for over 30 years! They are now married and decided to stop by the Senior Prom event to relive old memories and share their amazing story.

These are the community experiences the Los Alamitos Recreation & Community Services Department continues to strive to provide. This successful evening brought the community together and showcased the importance of continuing to provide events for people of all ages.

Set your calendars because Senior Prom will return with another exciting, themed night next May. For more information about upcoming events and programs, please visit www.cityoflosalamitos.org/recreation or contact the Recreation and Community Services Department at (562) 430 – 1073.



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