



FRIENDLY HILLER MAGAZINE

FALL 2020



amazon

coming
to Friendly Hills

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



W. Allan Nakken

Hello everyone. I trust you're all surviving these tumultuous times. With COVID-19, devastating wildfires, climate change, social unrest and a pending election, it feels sometimes like the world is coming to an end.

Take it from me, it could get worse.

I've been walking with a cane for about three months because my left hip has been killing me. Thinking it was arthritis, I went to PIH Health and after an X-ray they discovered a compressed hip socket. The painful news was I needed a full hip replacement.

I underwent the procedure two weeks ago and I'm home now trying to get better. We take so many things for granted, like being able to move both legs and walking. Using a bedpan is something I never thought I'd have to do.

Thank God for the greatest doctor. Dr. Amir Rounaghi heads up the orthopedics department at PIH Health and he's a miracle man. He replaced my hip in two hours and I was home the next day. Luckily I've been pain-free except for surgical healing.

In all, 2020 has been a rather tough year for all of us, but I have confidence in the miracles of modern medicine. Things will get better.

As we approach our next magazine, which you are now reading, we're happy to help announce that Amazon Fresh will take up the anchor position in the Friendly Hills Marketplace. It's "cashier free" system will bring the digital age to Whittier and replace the Orchard's Supply Hardware store.

The new Amazon Fresh will employ "hundreds" of people and will bring a real boost to the local economy.

Your homeowners association has been somewhat dormant because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we are poised to emerge stronger from all of this, together.

Allan Nakken

President

Friendly Hills Property Owners Association

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Amazon is coming to Friendly Hills

By Tim Traeger, Editor, The Friendly Hiller

Amazon spokesperson Alyse Bernal confirmed this week that the parent company owned by billionaire Jeff Bezos is taking the anchor position in the Friendly Hills Marketplace, a storied site that was once home to Board Ford and Orchard's Supply Hardware.

Bernal refused to say when the new "Amazon Fresh" grocery outlet will open in the 90,000-square-foot Marketplace nor how many people it will employ, but a similar location opened in Woodland Hills in September, offering a "seamless" shopping experience, according to Jeff Helbling, vice president of Amazon Fresh Stores. Bernal said that store employs "hundreds."

For Friendly Hills residents, that means another shopping option to go along with nearby Von's, Ralph's, Aldi's, Trader Joe's and Target. However Amazon Fresh is not like other stores.

Shoppers at Amazon Fresh download an App on their phones that allow shoppers to skip the cashier by using a "smart cart" that scans and detects purchased items as the customer leaves the store. A receipt for their purchase arrives in their inbox.

Quality foods at good prices are the model at Amazon Fresh, which also offers items online from their Whole Foods brand.

For City Manager Brian Saeki, it's a win for Whittier. "We are very excited about our new Amazon Fresh store," Saeki said. "It's going to allow for a traditional shopping experience in a more tech-savvy way, which is great for all of Whittier."

Asked whether an aging Whittier population would shop at a market located in a digital world, Whittier Area Chamber of

Commerce Executive Director Carol Crosby gave the thumbs-up.

"The Whittier Chamber is excited about Amazon Fresh coming to town and the jobs it will add to our community," Crosby said. "As far as the aging population, everything has changed since COVID-19 and people of all ages are learning to adapt to the virtual and online world we are living in. In today's times, it's almost a necessity to know how to go online or use your smartphone if you want to stay connected to loved ones or have a safe shopping experience. Amazon Fresh will provide a new, convenient and contact-free alternative to grocery shopping and we are excited they have chosen Whittier, a city rich in traditions, but also forward-thinking, as one of their newest stores."

Daniel F. Duran, associate professor of Business Administration at Whittier College, thinks the high-tech Amazon Fresh model will work here.

"My wife and I are both looking forward to having an Amazon Fresh in our neighborhood," Duran said. "I make almost daily trips to Trader Joe's and will extend my route to take in the new Amazon Fresh. We need more quality focused food outlets in our neighborhood and Amazon Fresh will hopefully add to our healthy choices."

"Amazon is good for anything, I guess," said Whittier native Charlie Cole, 57. "People like Amazon. I like Amazon. More than eBay."

"I have a lot of faith in it," said Whittier College senior history major Eric Dutra, 21. "Whittier doesn't really have to do anything. With Amazon as a private business, they will be in control of the technology and all the ups and downs that come with it."

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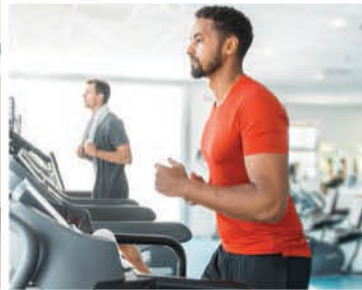


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**By Tim Traeger, Editor
The Friendly Hiller**

Home of the Quarter

When the Torres family bought their home at the corner of Los Lotes and La Entrada in 2011, brokered by local Realtor Paul Echevarria, the place was a mess. Debris and dead animals filled the landscape. But Jose and his wife, Fanny, rolled up their sleeves, went to work and pulled out 40 tons of waste.

Now their 4,200-square-foot, four-bedroom, four-bath Mediterranean ranch home at 14909 Los Lotes has garnered the Home of the Quarter award in addition to a beautification award it earned in 2012 from the Friendly Hills Property Owners Association.

"We did it as we liked. We built our dream house," said Jose Torres, who at 41 is a successful banking executive. The smart home is wired for sound. They turned an 800-square-foot backhouse into a theater for movie nights with their three children, Catalina, Lucas and Jose. A custom pool features streaming jets and a waterfall.

The family just got back from a "glamping" trip to Laughlin, Nev., in their 24-foot RV.

Jose Torres was born in Torrance and raised in Cerritos. The Cerritos High grad majored in international business

at Cal State Dominguez Hills and worked for Wells Fargo in Orange County the past 20 years. He and his wife of 16 years bought their first home behind Whittier College in 2005. The dream happened in 2011 when they moved to Friendly Hills.

"We loved the huge lots," Jose said. "I like the people. I like the community. I like everything that Whittier has to offer as far as shops and stores. It's organic in Whittier. Most businesses are independent or small, family-owned."

When he's not cooking, camping or tooling around in his black 2017 Porsche Carrera, Jose said he loves music. Hence every room has overhead speakers. There's a custom laundry room. The bathrooms all feature custom vanities. After they bought the home in 2011, Jose said it took a year to renovate. It went from about 2,000 square feet to 4,000 on a 28,000 square foot lot.

The family enjoys a variety of fruit trees on their property and an old, original macadamia nut tree.

"The only thing existing in this house is an old part of the roof," Jose said. "We took out 40 tons of stuff. There were dead animals. It was a mess. We think the neighbors were pretty happy with what we did."



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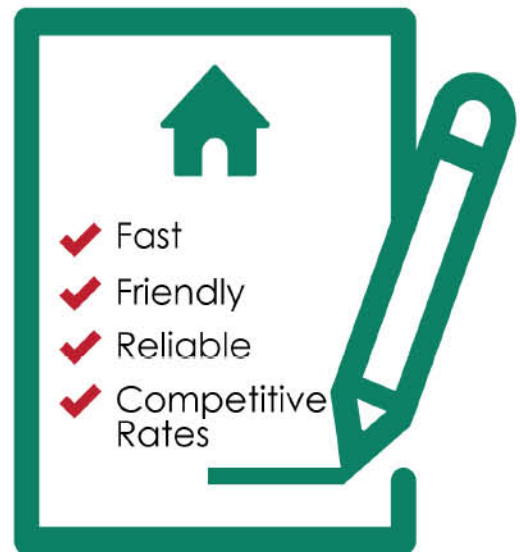
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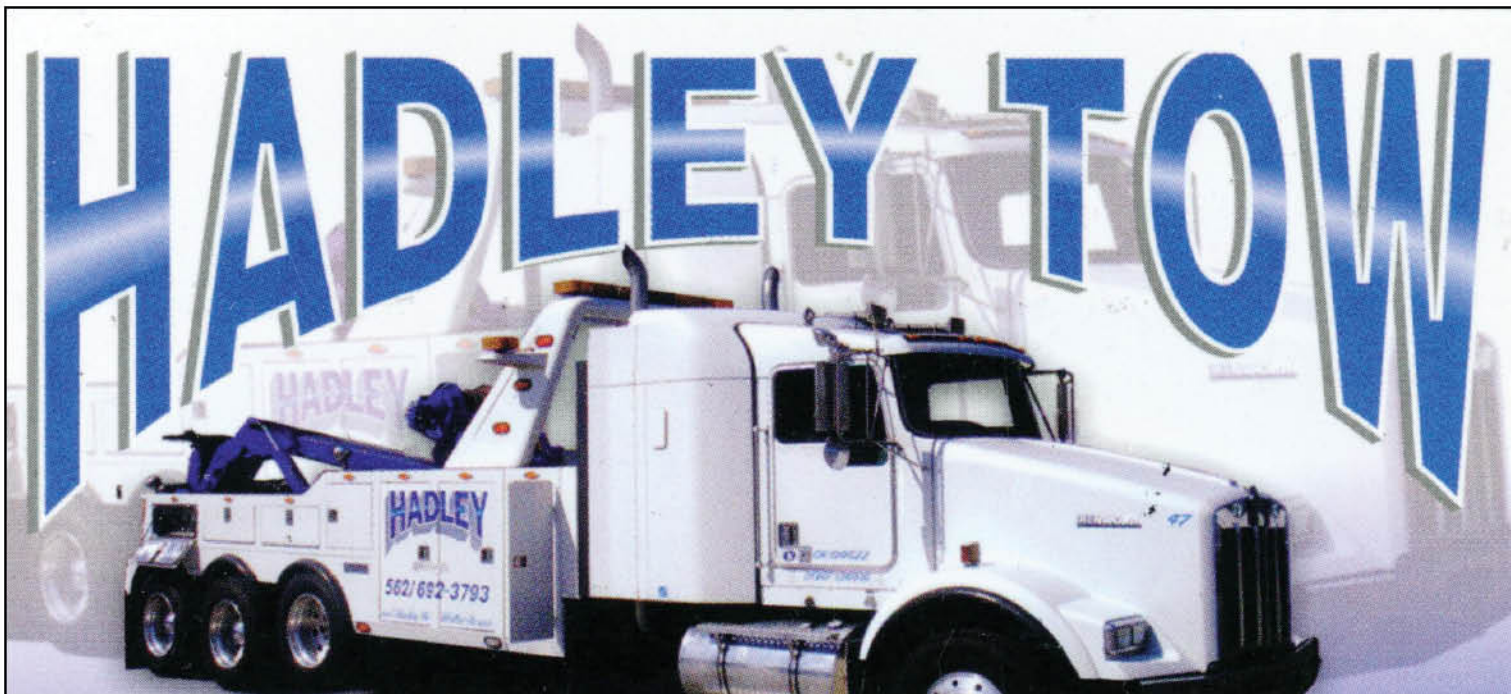
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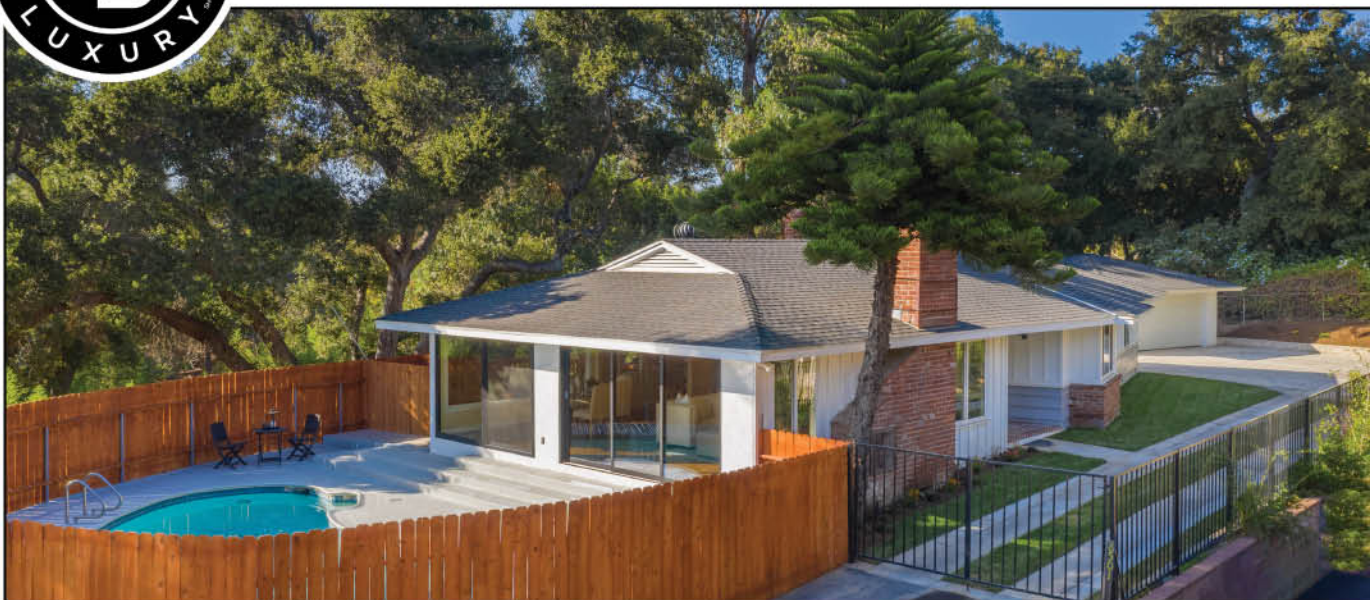


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Lou's Fabulous Turkey Dinner

I use a recipe from Chef Judy Rodgers of Zuni Café in San Francisco and the turkey is perfect every time. The turkey is moist, gloriously browned and perfectly seasoned all the way to the bone.

DRY-BRINED TURKEY RECIPE

Begin the brining the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving and give it several hours in the refrigerator uncovered at the end to thoroughly dry the skin. Because roasting times can vary with big birds, allow an extra hour or so — if it's done early, tent it with foil and keep it warm; the rest will only improve the texture of the meat.

TOTAL TIME:

2 hours, 50 minutes, plus 3 days brining and drying time

SERVINGS:

11 to 15

Note: This is more a technique than a recipe. It makes a bird that has concentrated turkey flavor and fine, firm flesh and that is delicious as it is. But you can add other flavors as you wish. Minced rosemary would be a nice finishing addition. Or brush the bird lightly with butter before roasting.

INGREDIENTS:

1 (12- to 16-pound) turkey
Kosher salt

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Wash the turkey inside and out, pat it dry and weigh it. Measure 1 tablespoon of salt into a bowl for every 5 pounds the turkey weighs (for a 15-pound turkey, you'd have 3 tablespoons).
2. Sprinkle the inside of the turkey lightly with salt. Place the turkey on its back and salt the breasts, concentrating the salt in the center, where the meat is thickest. You'll probably use a little more than a tablespoon. It should look liberally seasoned, but not over-salted.
3. Turn the turkey on one side and sprinkle the entire side with salt, concentrating on the thigh. You should use a little less than a tablespoon. Flip the turkey over and do the same with the opposite side.
4. Place the turkey in a 2½-gallon sealable plastic bag, press out the air and seal tightly. Place the turkey breast-side up in the refrigerator. Chill for 3 days, turning it onto its breast for the last day.
5. Remove the turkey from the bag. There should be no salt visible on the surface, and the skin should be moist but not wet. Place the turkey breast-side up on a plate and refrigerate uncovered for at least 8 hours.
6. On the day it is to be cooked, remove the turkey from the refrigerator and leave it at room temperature at least 1 hour. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.
7. Place the turkey breast-side down on a roasting rack in a roasting pan; put it in the oven. After 30 minutes, remove the pan from the oven and carefully turn the turkey over so the breast is facing up (it's easiest to do this by hand, using kitchen towels or oven mitts).

8. Reduce the oven temperature to 325 degrees, return the turkey to the oven and roast until a thermometer inserted in the deepest part of the thigh, but not touching the bone, reads 165 degrees, about 2¾ hours total roasting.
9. Remove the turkey from the oven, transfer it to a warm platter or carving board; tent loosely with foil. Let stand at least 30 minutes to let the juices redistribute through the meat. Carve and serve.

HOMEMADE CRANBERRY SAUCE

INGREDIENTS:

2/3 cup sugar
1/2 cup orange juice (no sugar added or freshly squeezed)
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon kosher salt
One 12-ounce bag cranberries

INSTRUCTIONS:

Combine the sugar, orange juice, 1/2 cup water, the cinnamon, salt and cranberries in a medium saucepan. Bring up to a simmer over medium heat and cook for 15 minutes. Let cool completely before serving.

CREAM CHEESE MASHED POTATOES

These indulgent cream cheese mashed potatoes are the creamiest potatoes you'll ever eat!

INGREDIENTS:

5 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled, halved, and cut into 1/2-inch pieces
1 stick unsalted butter, melted
8 ounces block-style cream cheese, room temperature
1/2 to 1 cup milk or half and half, warmed
2 teaspoons kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon ground white pepper

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Place potatoes in a large pot and add enough cool water to cover by 1-inch. Add a pinch of kosher salt and bring to a boil. Cook for 15-20 minutes, until potatoes are tender and a knife can be inserted into the center of the wedges easily. Drain potatoes into a colander and return them to the hot pot.
2. Add butter, cream cheese, 1/2 cup milk or half and half, kosher salt, and pepper. Use a hand mixer or a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment to gently combine until smooth, adding additional milk as needed to reach your desired consistency. (I often use the full cup; keep in mind that potatoes will thicken upon standing.) Don't over-whip, or potatoes will become gluey. (Alternatively, I often use a potato ricer to rice the potatoes and then stir in the rest of the ingredients by hand, heating the potatoes on the stove as needed to fully combine the cream cheese.)
3. Season to taste with additional salt and pepper and serve.



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Our Friendly Faiths Beginnings Part 1

The 1950s and 1960s were a time of enormous growth in Friendly Hills as homes and corresponding businesses and shopping centers needed to service our community were built. This growth saw a need to build new houses of faith for people to gather in shared beliefs and community support.

Although many moving into Friendly Hills from nearby attended established churches in Uptown Whittier, it is amazing how quickly funds were raised to build churches and a synagogue closer to Friendly Hills. Other faith communities started by meeting in people's homes, other similar churches across town, school facilities, and yes even a citrus fumigation tent.

In this initial two-part series I will highlight the larger churches and a synagogue that were created by our Friendly Hills Community with photos and brief history.

Thank you to the various church or temple websites for their insightful histories and to other community members for your photos and stories. Your stories of change and growth in the 1950s and 1960s are needed and can be sent to Dr. John Sudick at FriendlyMemories@gmail.com.



1956 Our new sanctuary



Von's Warehouse, the first church services



Masses in a tent on the new property



St. Bruno's Catholic Church today

In the early 1950s, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles purchase 10 acres at the corner of Citrustree and Santa Gertrudes. Fr. John McCormick, the first pastor, offered Sunday Mass in the Von's Market Warehouse located just north of the church property. Later a tent was erected while the church was being constructed to accommodate more parishioners. By August of 1956, **St. Bruno's Catholic Church** conducted services in the new church you see today. The parish school back then offered four grades. Many additions have been completed over the years including a convent, hall expansion, and parish center completed in 1996. The church today has grown to more than 2,900 registered families serving the local community.

Faith Lutheran Church

"Summer 1952, Pastor Marvin Suhr combed the streets of Whittier with a vision for a new Christian community. When 74 people joined him for worship at the American Legion Hall, he knew he had struck a nerve. By the end of the summer, the burgeoning congregation had purchased the 3 1/2 acre parcel on which sits the church and school today. It was early spring 1953, and the congregation broke ground to build its first parish hall. It was complete with 178 communicants and their children by the following spring. A fellowship hall followed, and then the Sunday school wing, and then the parsonage. Growth was explosive. By October 1956, worship attendance was 440. By January 1958, it was 723! The present sanctuary was built before the end of that year. In 1960, we opened our K-8 school and planted a mission in Brea which would become Christ Lutheran Church." -website.



Faith Lutheran Church



Early Beginnings: The Little Brown Church



*East Whittier
Presbyterian Church*



*Original Lusk Family Home
moved to Cole Road*



*Sanctuary:
East Whittier Methodist Church*



Baker Hall 1957

Sanctuary: East Whittier Methodist Church

"In 1950, during the post war building boom, the Santa Ana District of the Methodist Church purchased 22 acres of orange groves along Cole Road in Whittier to build a church in 1951. Jon D. Lusk, a home builder and a Methodist, donated his home on Whittier Boulevard to be the first building of this new church. It was moved to Cole Road at Hayward Street, where it still stands as Lusk Hall. It was used as the parsonage for Raymond L. Wirth, our first pastor. The first worship services of the East Whittier Methodist Church were held in the living room of that home in late 1951. Twenty three members were present. While the first new building of the church was being built, Pastor Wirth made use of a citrus fumigation tent for his services. This new building, Baker Hall, was dedicated in November of 1952 and served as the sanctuary and offices of the church. It was rapidly outgrown and was expanded in 1956. Today, Baker Hall holds the offices, lounge and library of the church.

In 1958 Owen W. Geer became the pastor and began planning for a much larger sanctuary. That building was dedicated in 1960 and remains our sanctuary today. In 1966, while our pastor was Rev. Sanford Sweet, Geer Hall was built and dedicated as a multi-purpose building. Geer Hall holds a large dining hall (sometimes basketball court), large kitchen, bathrooms and classrooms. It is this building that allows us to host the Cold Weather Shelter for several weeks every year. Boy Scout Troop 985 has been chartered out of EWUMC for 50 years and has produced more than 150 Eagle Scouts, utilizing Geer Hall for many of their functions. In 1968, with the joining of the Methodist, Evangelical and Brethren churches, our church officially became **East Whittier United Methodist Church**. That year our membership was 1,630 and growing." -website

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Whittier's temporary emergency homeless shelter

As many of you know, we have been enduring an increased homeless problem in Whittier for well over two years. This has remained a challenging and difficult issue for all our residents.

The City has taken a significant step toward a solution as we have opened a temporary emergency shelter in one of the City's own senior centers located on Walnut in Uptown Whittier. The shelter is operated by the Salvation Army and has a capacity to serve 139 individuals.

Once a permanent homeless shelter is ready to open, slated for the early part of 2021, the City has the budget and plans to rehabilitate the Senior Center before reopening for its original purpose. I had the opportunity to tour the Senior Center just before it opened as an emergency homeless shelter and was amazed at what the City staff had done to prepare for this new use.

You may recall in 2018 the City saw the need to respond to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in the *Martin vs. Boise* case that allowed homeless individuals to camp in public spaces, thus negating many of our local ordinances. Consequently the City adopted a Homeless Plan which included the determination of shelter options. Additionally, the residents of Whittier have been the beneficiaries of a non-profit organization, The Homeless Consortium, a group of individuals who came together and to this day provide opportunities for discussion and policy recommendations which are then forwarded to the City Council.

The council decided to avoid protracted litigation and enter into a settlement agreement in federal court with the Orange County Catholic Workers case. The terms of the settlement agreement allowed the City to begin enforcing "quality of life" ordinances (e.g.: camping, storage, sleeping) when the City has provided shelter beds for at least 60 percent of the number of homeless individuals identified during the annual at the point-in-time homeless count.

Because the renovations for the Permanent (Homeless) Navigation Center will take a while, the City Council provided direction to identify ways to comply with the six-month deadline for the settlement agreement which coincided with the COVID19 direction to identify city facilities to provide emergency homeless shelter space.

CARES Act funds will be used to operate the temporary shelter at the Uptown Senior Center for six months until renovations can be completed at the City's permanent Navigation (Homeless) Center site, which will be at the Salvation Army's property on Pickering Avenue.

The temporary shelter on Walnut opened Sept. 1, 2020 with more than 40 people the first night. Outreach to the homeless has been performed by a variety of longstanding community members and service providers in coordination with Salvation



By Cathy Warner
Whittier City Councilwoman, District 3

Army and assistance from Federal Judge David Carter (who adjudicated the OC Catholic Workers settlement agreement) and Pastor Don Dermitt. The shelter can accommodate up to 139 individuals, is open 24 hours a day, and provides case management and housing services and resources appropriate for each client, as well as three meals a day, showers, laundry and health services including COVID screening.

Someone coming in the Temporary Shelter must have a connection to Whittier. Their residency status is determined based upon one or more of the following criteria:

- The individual or family is known to the City to be sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, within the City limits, for more than 12 months and has a history or open case for over one-year consisting of ongoing interaction with one of the CES, law enforcement, local medical professionals, or similar; or,
- The homeless individual or family has an immediate family member (mother, father, child, sibling, or grandparent) living in the City, who is willing to help in the remediation of their homelessness. Current residency of an immediate family member must be documented (e.g. owner of record, lease, and/or paid utilities necessary for legal use of the property for residential use), or;
- The individual or family became homeless while living permanently in City. Proof of residency on property zoned for residential use in City (e.g. owner of record, lease, and/or paid utilities necessary for legal use of the property for residential use) must be provided; or,
- The individual or family includes an individual who is currently attending a school full-time within the City limits, or is legally and gainfully employed at least 20 hours per week and works within the City limits. Proof of school enrollment or employment must be provided (e.g. report cards, pay stubs, or school or employee identification), or;
- Other criteria / documentation as identified by the City and agreed upon by the Salvation Army

As of the middle of September, per the settlement agreement, the City was allowed by Judge Carter to enforce all ordinances that have been held in abeyance since the *Martin vs. Boise* ruling. Although the temporary shelter goes a long way, there are still multiple milestones to complete to make sure each homeless individual or family within Whittier can find adequate housing.

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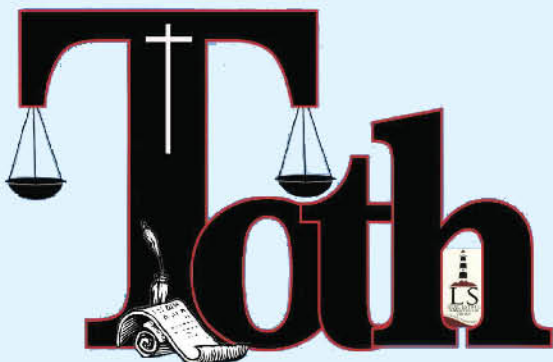
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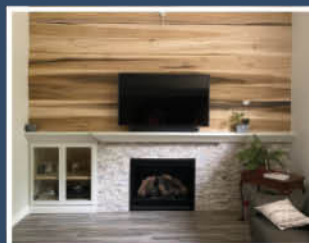
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Aviv Bar,
Interim Chief of Police
Whittier Police Department

Community policing withstands the test of time

In the early 2000's, the Whittier Police Department had a two-officer community policing team. The officers on this team exemplified what a community policing officer should be: kind, caring, empathetic, and friendly, with the desire to relate to and form strong relationships with the

community. This team was mainly assigned to work in areas of the city that experienced increasing crime, and within a few months, they were able to make significant improvements not only in crime, but also in building trust between neighborhood residents and the police.

Based on the success of this small team, we decided in the mid 2000's that every Whittier police officer should become a community policing officer. It just made sense to expand the community policing philosophy and the success of a small team to the entire organization. At the core of community policing is the need for police and the community to work together in partnership, to address crime and quality-of-life issues. The more we work together, the more successes we can celebrate together, the stronger the relationship and trust will be between us.

In 2006 I had the pleasure of facilitating workshops for all police department and city employees, as we transitioned to a department-wide community policing approach. Some of you may have attended these workshops alongside our officers. This shift in how we police in Whittier has been very beneficial to the community and to our department.

In addition to assigning a dedicated area lieutenant and a team of community policing officers to each patrol area of our city, we concentrated on hiring police officer candidates who possess the traits necessary to become outstanding community policing officers. You will find that our police officers are personable, good communicators, good decision makers, and show great care about the community that we serve. You will find every level and rank of our department to be accessible, responsive, and ready to work with residents, businesses, and community

groups to increase safety in the city.

I see various organizations currently working on "restarting" community policing or creating new community policing teams or divisions. I am proud to tell you that the Whittier Police Department never abandoned or lessened our commitment to community policing. Every Whittier police officer is a community policing officer and has been for many years. Our relationship and trust with the community has been strengthening year by year and we continue to work hard every day to earn your trust through our actions.

I am very proud of our police department - every employee in every division, sworn, civilian, and volunteers. We come to work 24/7/365 with one mission in mind: to serve our amazing community. Our police officers take on unimaginable risks every day, handling complex and dangerous situations, situations that no one else has been able to resolve. They are expected to make split-second decisions under extreme pressure, show restraint, compassion, and understanding, even when dealing with those in our society who harbor hate toward the uniform and wish them harm.

The past months have been very challenging to our profession, but your support and reassurance have kept our spirits up and our commitment level high. Your emails, letters, prayers, cards, care packages, and the amazing parade with more than 800 vehicles, have shown us that you care about us just as much as we care about you. This is what true partnership looks like. This is why community policing works so well in Whittier. We are honored to serve you and we are proud to wear the Whittier badge and patch on our uniforms.

We are always looking to improve. Feel free to contact me with any ideas and suggestions you may have for us at abar@cityofwhittier.org

Sincerely,
Aviv Bar
Interim Chief of Police



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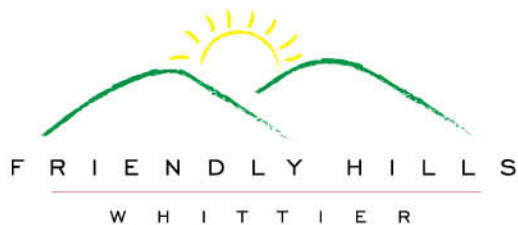
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