WHITTIER

FRIENDLY

HILLER



From left, Murphy Ranch Little League board member Dan Garibay, president Christine Garibay, board member Jeff Pont, Councilwoman Cathy Warner and board members Douglas Rowan and Albert Richards pose at the Murphy Ranch Little League complex on May 13.



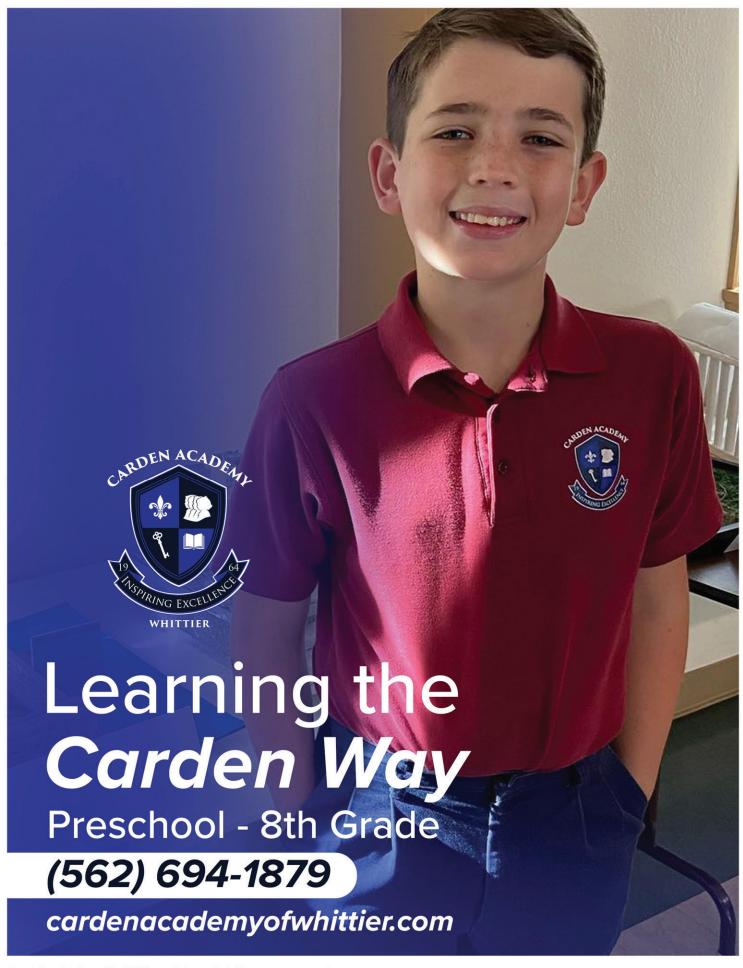
Mayor: 'Stand up' for Whittier values page 26-27



Whittier's famous sports athletes page 14-15



Home of the Quarter page 22-23



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Friendly Hills Property
Owners Association
Board of Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

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Luis Carrion, CCIM

Dear FHPOA Members.

As we head into the summer months, we wanted to take a moment to remind everyone about the importance of keeping our lawns looking good. A well-maintained lawn not only adds to the beauty of our community but also helps to maintain property values and promote a sense of pride in our neighborhood.

We understand that maintaining a lawn can be a time-consuming and sometimes costly task, but we encourage each and every one of you to do your part in keeping your lawn looking its best. This includes regular mowing, watering, and fertilizing, as well as keeping the lawn free of weeds and debris.

In addition, we ask that all members of our community be mindful of any damage or neglect that may occur to common areas or shared spaces. If you notice any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to bring them to our attention so that we can address them promptly.

We appreciate your cooperation and dedication to maintaining the beauty and value of our community. Together, we can continue to make our neighborhood a wonderful place to call home.

Sincerely,

Luis Carrion

Luis Carrion, CCIM
President, Friendly Hills Property Owners Association

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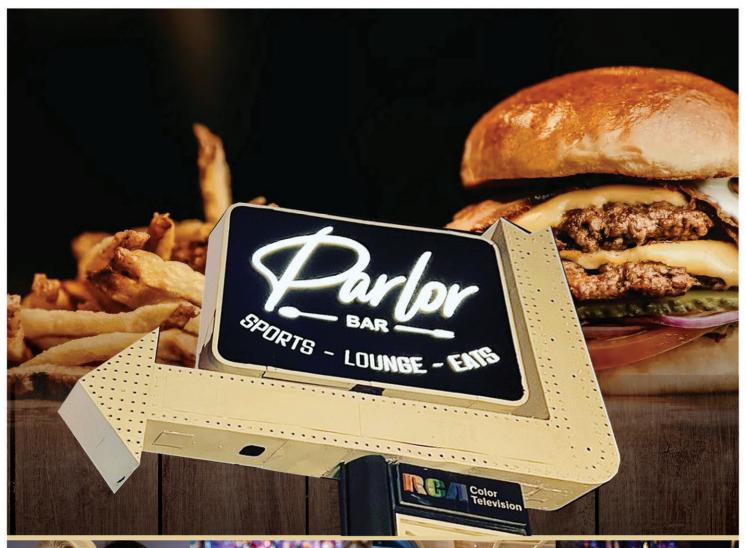
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Summertime is also vacation time and while many of us find summer to be a great opportunity to visit distant places, others find summer to be an opportunity to break into homes while occupants are away.

Lock doors, windows, side gates, garage door and garage side access door.

Do some yard work before you leave the house for an extended period of time. Trim your hedges and bushes so thieves can't have a chance to hide out, or that you won't give the impression your home has been left unattended and vacant.

Get to know your neighbors before your trip. Neighbors who look out for each other are among the best and least expensive defenses against neighborhood crime. On a daily basis, have your neighbor pick up your mail, newspapers, packages and advertisements left at your doorstep.

Make sure all outside entrances of the home are well-lighted. A timer or solar-powered lights in the front, back and side of the house make it difficult for burglars to hide.

Invest in an alarm and use signs and stickers to

warn would-be burglars. A loud audible alarm will most likely scare a burglar away as soon as it is activated.

Think twice before posting upcoming vacations on social media.

Vacations are meant to be fun times with family and friends, not a time of convenience for thieves and potential burglars. Keep your homes safe and secure and make your trip a memorable one with these simple precautions.



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9 PM Routine

I would like to encourage you to implement the 9PM Routine in your household, and share with your friends, family, and neighbors. Before you settle in for the night, take a few minutes and complete the 9PM routine.

- Lock all doors and windows in your home.
- Close and secure your garage.
- Turn on exterior lights.
- · Remove valuables from car.
- Lock your car.
- · Set your security alarm.







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Murphy Ranch Little League!

City awards lighting contract to R&M Electrical Contractors of Anaheim By Tim Traeger, Editor The Friendly Hiller

\$791,877 contract to R&M Electrical

switch on the future of youth recreation at Murphy Ranch.

For years the board of the Murphy Ranch Little League has wanted to add lighting to the fields atop Colima Road, according to Christine Garibay, board president.

With the recent merger of Murphy Ranch Little League and Whittier Little League, more than 600 kids now play baseball at the two adjacent fields.

"I am extremely stoked for the future," said Garibay, whose sons Rylan and Logan play in the league. numbers have more than doubled, almost tripled. We keep bringing more and more kids in to play baseball, giving kids a fun and safe place to play. And it's been great for the

According to project manager Bob Rose, poles B-1 and B-2 will be 80 feet tall, poles A-1, A-2, C-1 and C-2 will be 70 feet tall and pole D-1 will be 60 feet tall on Field No. 1; poles B-3 and B-4 will be 70 feet tall with poles A-3 and A-4 60 feet tall on Field No. 2. All 11 poles at the Murphy Ranch Little League complex will be equipped with high-technology Musco LED lights, a gold standard in the recreational sports field lighting industry.

⚠ hen the Whittier City Council awarded city and the community and for our kids," Garibay said. Whittier City Manager Brian Saeki is a huge Contractors of Anaheim on June 13, it flipped the supporter of Little League, as are his bosses on the

council.

"The City Council has approved light at Murphy Ranch Little League. The field is owned by the city. Contrary to popular belief, the light will not spill off on to people's property. With new technology, the lighting today is different than in years past," Saeki said during a community meeting in February at Whittier Area Community Church. "We can angle the lights to be very specific. This will allow the 500 or 600 kids to practice (and play) at niaht."

Board member Albert Richards was ecstatic at the news.

"When I was league president we tried to get lights," Richards said on May 13. "At that time unfortunately they said 'no.' I Image courtesy of PBLA Engineering never thought I'd live to see it.

But I'm glad I'm around because it will be great for the kids. I appreciate Christine and Danny. They do a great job for us. It gives me something to do and I love baseball. I just love watching the kids play," said Richards, a retired operations manager who had two kids in the Little League program.

"Little League has been and will continue to be extremely important to Whittier," Councilwoman Cathy Warner said. "I personally became involved in Little League back in 1974 when my oldest child started playing T-ball. We've loved it ever since. We've had grandkids play and I currently have a seven year old playing. I know it's extremely important to many, many families. We need more playing time on the fields. Hence, we need lights. They're coming and we can't wait. Congratulations to every child that plays. Every coach. Every manager. I hate to use the pun, but it really is a team effort in making this happen."

Board member Douglas Rowan's son Renzo pitches for the Cardinals. He echoed Warner's sentiments.

"I'm just proud that the city and the League was able to work together to get this project done. With the need that came from all the kids that are merging into this league, we needed some extra hours and the city and the board all stepped up," Rowan said.

Board member Jeff Pont said baseball has brought he and his sons, Dylan and Ryder, closer together.

"I believe in this field up here. It's amazing," Pont said. "Our kids go on to play in high school and college. Professional ball. I've seen high school teams with so many Little Leaguers starting. This field means the world to me and it helped me walk again. I was paralyzed and it really motivated me to walk again."

R&M Contractors President Richard "Rick" Feilmeier said there's still a process to follow before that switch is flipped. He said his company has been doing this type of work for 24 years.

"The next steps is getting contracts, bonds, insurance and everything in place," Feilmeier said by phone on June 16. "This is what we do. And we have a pretty damned good reputation. The kids will be in



heaven. It's absolutely amazing. It seems every year they have more technology. It's unreal what they do with light. Twenty feet beyond those poles there will be very little foot candles. The process for contracts, insurance, bonds and all that is probably a two-to-three-week time period. We go through a submittal process. Some of it is determined by how quickly the city will turn it around, the architect and engineer for approvals. The lead time for the Musco lights right now could be as much as 90 days getting them to the job site," Feilmeier said.

"We create controlled light, not floodlight," reads the Musco website, www.Musco.com. "Our LED sports lighting directs light with pinpoint precision, because it's about lighting your field, not the neighborhood around it."

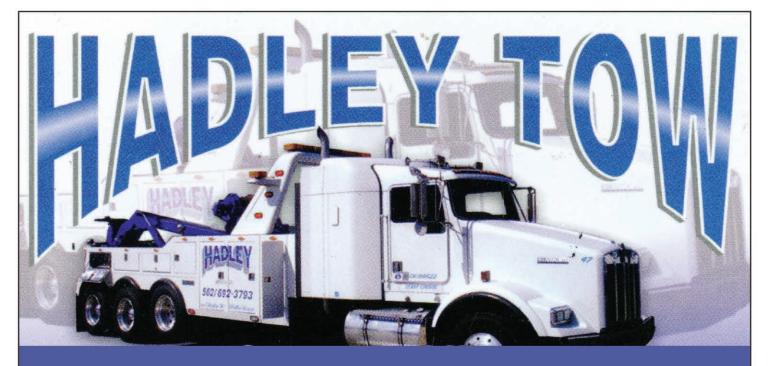
Musco has been a partner with Little League for 30 years, the website says.



The Majors Dodgers won the Murphy Ranch Little League End Season Tournament over the Cardinals on May 13 to earn the right to represent Murphy Ranch in the District 56 Tournament of Champions.



Images by Keith Durflinger



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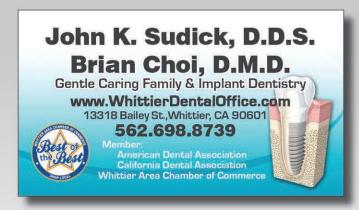
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By John K. Sudick, DDS

WHITTIER'S FAMOUS SPORTS ATHLETES: BASEBALL

America's favorite summer pastime has created a number of baseball legends from Whittier. One of the more recent Hall of Famers from Whittier I was so impressed by was **Anthony Nomar Garciaparra** born July 23rd, 1973 of Mexican American descent and attended Saint John Bosco High School in Bellflower.

He turned down a 5th round pick to play for the Milwaukee Brewers to play college baseball for the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets and helped lead his team to the Collegiate World Series in 1994 losing to Oklahoma. He batted .427 in his final season at Georgia Tech. In 1992 Garciaparra played on the United States Olympic Baseball Team in the Summer Olympics in Barcelona. Coached by his father Ramon in his early years in Whittier, Nomar (Ramon spelled backward) went on to an amazing 14-year career in the Majors, playing nine seasons for the Boston Red Sox. After playing parts of nine seasons as an All-Star shortstop for the Sox, he played shortstop, third base and first base for the Chicago Cubs, Los Angeles Dodgers and the Oakland Athletics. He is one of 13 players in Major League history to hit two grand slams during a single game, and the only player to achieve the feat at his home stadium.

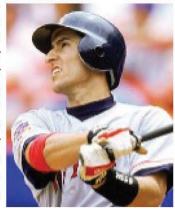
Garciaparra is a six-time All-Star (1997, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2006), and was the American League Rookie of the Year and AL Silver Slugger Award winner at shortstop in 1997. In 2001, he suffered a wrist injury, the first in a series of significant injuries that plagued the remainder of his career. Known for his ability to hit for average, Garciaparra is a lifetime .313 hitter. He had the highest single-season batting average by a right-handed batter in the post-war era, batting .372 in 2000, and won the AL Batting Title in 1999 and 2000, the first right-handed batter to do this in consecutive seasons since Joe DiMaggio.

Known by his Boston fans as "Nomah," Nomar completed his baseball career by returning to the Red

Sox with a one-day contract to retire from the team in 2010. He returned to live in Whittier while doing radio and television commentator positions for baseball events on ESPN and other media outlets. He now lives in Manhattan Beach with his wife (married 2003), Olympian and World Cup champion soccer star Mia Hamm, twin girls, Grace Isabella and Ava Caroline (born 2007), and son Garrett Anthony (born 2012.) To learn more about Anthony Nomar Garciaparra, go to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NomarGarciaparra.

Andrew "Andy" Auguste Etchebarren (1943 –2019)

was an professional baseball player and minor league manager from Whittier. He played for 15 seasons in Major League Baseball as a catcher in 1962 and then from 1965 through 1978, most notably as a member of the Baltimore Orioles dynasty that won four American League pennants and two World Series championships between 1966 and 1971. A two-time All-Star, Etchebarren also played for



Andy Etchebarren

the California Angels and the Milwaukee Brewers. After his playing career, he became a coach and managed 16 seasons in the Minor Leagues. Etchebarren was the last man to bat against Sandy Koufax when he hit into a double play during the sixth inning of Game 2 of the 1966 World Series. Etchebarren helped the Orioles win the 1966 and 1970 World Series, 1969 and 1971 AL pennants, and the 1973 and 1974 AL Eastern Division championships.

Wallace "Wally" Hood Sr. (1895-1965) Wallace James "Wally" Hood was born in Whittier on Feb. 9, 1895. His parents, James Gideon Hood, a butcher, and Catharine Ann (Moreland) Hood, both Canadian born, had settled in Whittier. His mother Catharine (later a Pruitt when she remarried) was considered a pioneer of the City of Whittier. Wally graduated from Whittier High School and attended



Fullerton College where his baseball prowess was observed by the Pacific Coast League's (PCL) Vernon Tigers who signed him in 1915. Hood was an outfielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates (1920) and the Brooklyn Robins (Dodgers) (1921-1922) but finished the 1922 season with the Seattle Indians. In 1923 the elder Hood joined the PCL's Los Angeles Angels; that season, he was named the Angels' Most Valuable Player. He played with the Angels through the 1928 season. The final two years of his professional career, 1929 and 1930, saw him on the rosters of four teams: the Reading Keystones of the International League; the Seattle Indians of the PCL; the Memphis Chickasaws of the Southern Association; and finally, in 1930, the Sacramento Senators, of the PCL.

While with the Angels in 1928, Hood was one of several players (including Truck Hannah and Mike Ready) called upon to appear (in uncredited roles, appearing as themselves) in the Paramount Studios film Warming Up. Director Fred C. Newmeyer, a baseball player himself, knew that his film needed professional ballplayers to give a realistic vision of baseball. Released on July 25, 1928, the film starred Richard Dix and Jean Arthur. The film was Paramount's first sound production. A reviewer declared: "You actually hear the crack of the bat, the call of the umpire, the roar of the crowd. ..." Richard Dix studied the players and even emulated the superstitious behaviors of some. Hood, known as the "Whittier Walloper," was acknowledged for one of his superstitions: "'Sure Fire' is the laconic explanation of Wally Hood, formerly with the Brooklyn club and a member of the cast of 'Warming Up,' for his peculiar custom when two strikes are called against him of taking his chewing gum from his mouth and sticking it on the button on the top of his cap." Hood appeared in three other films: Alibi Ike in 1935, The Stratton Story in 1949, and Rhubarb in 1951. Refer to this link by author Jay Hurd at the Society for American Baseball Research for interesting details of Hood's life: https://sabr.org/bioproj/ person/wally-hood-2/.

This has been an interesting study and doing research on our Whittier baseball greats required leaving out details on a number of other players I will list here for you to look up on Wikipedia, Society for American Baseball Research, or other sites:



Daniel David Gonzalez (born 1953) Right Fielder for Detroit Tigers; James Patrick Quirk (born 1954) St. Paul H.S., Whittier College, catcher for various Major League teams 1975-1992, Baseball coach to various MLB Teams 1994-2017; Chuck Cary (born 1960) pitcher various teams; Phillip Evans (born 1992)

outfielder & third baseman various teams; Ron Flores (born 1979) also had an older brother Randy Flores in the minor leagues; Michael Anthony Gallegos (born 1960) St. Paul, UCLA, most notably an infielder for the Oakland A's helping the team win a World Series

Pennant in 1989; Mark Kotsav (born 1975) Santa Fe high, Cal State Fullerton, outfielder and baseball manager, most notably the Miami Marlins and Oakland A's; David Paul Leiper (born 1962) pitcher most notably for three stints with Oakland A's during 1984-1995; Matt Scott Stark (born 1965) St Paul's, Whittier College, catcher and designated hitter, Toronto Blue Jays 1987, Chicago White Sox 1990, and won a World Series as a coach. Stark is now coaching baseball at



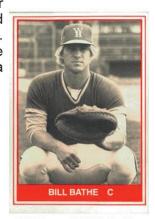
James Quirk

Glen Wilson H.S. in Hacienda Heights; William "Willie" Adams (born 1972) La Serna, Stanford University (Most Valuable Freshman), 1992 Summer Olympic Games pitched two games for the U.S. Olympic Baseball Team. Professional career spanned eight seasons 1993-2000 in the MLB and minor leagues; William "Bill" Bathe

(born 1960) La Serna, catcher playing for MLB for Oakland A's and San Francisco Giants. He is now captain for the Tucson Fire Department and a paramedic.

Mark Kotsay (above)

Email me: FriendlyHistory@gmail.com



William "Bill" Bathe

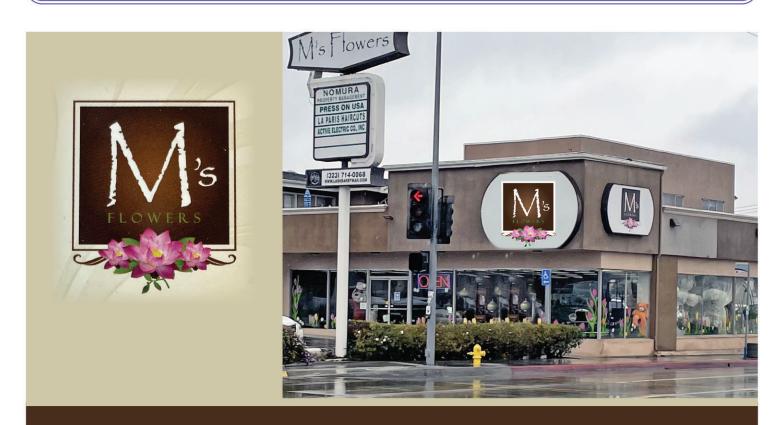


Celebrating the Life of Ruth B. Shannon

Sunday, October 1, 2023 @ 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Whittier Uptown Public Library Outside Patio

Reservation required: email <u>read@whittierplf.org</u> or make a reservation in person at Whittier Chamber of Commerce, East Whittier Public Library or Uptown Whittier Public Library.

An opportunity to share a special memory/story of Ruth will be available when you make your reservation in person or through email.



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on the Friendly Hills Real Estate Market



With over 18 years of dedicated service in the real estate industry, our team has developed an intimate knowledge of Friendly Hills and the surrounding areas. We understand the local market trends, property values, and the unique charms that make this community so desirable.

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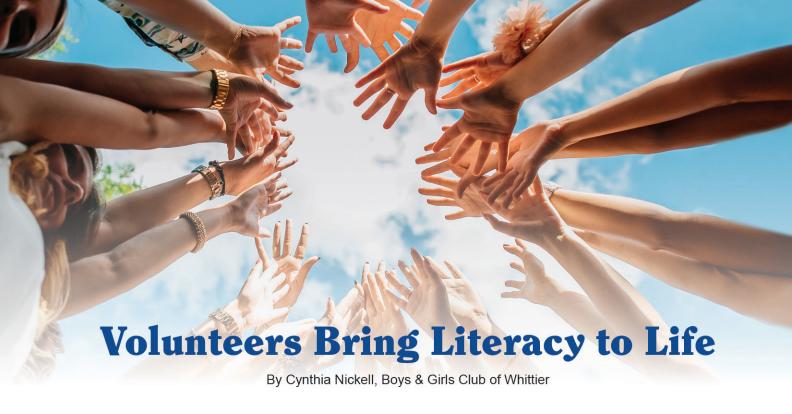
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Students of all ages are bringing their reading skills up to par, thanks to volunteers at the Whittier Area Literacy Council.

Volunteering has increased due to an exciting new partnership between the Whittier Area Literacy Council (WALC) and the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier (BGCW). Recognizing the need for reading support for children, BGCW hired Stephanie Ramirez Garcia, a fulltime Outreach/Education coordinator, to increase recruitment and training of volunteers at WALC.

Trained volunteers work one-on-one with a student two hours a week. Youths who begin when their reading is two years behind grade level advance quickly with individual support.

"Working one on one is so rewarding because you get to see the growth of a student," said WALC Board member Celia McCabe. "My student was struggling in school and very shy. Now she is confident and enjoys school, and I've been able to see that growth."

Volunteers are welcome to apply at any time, and to commit two hours a week for one year. Volunteers must be 18 years old, high school graduates, and pass a Livescan fingerprint background check. All tutoring takes place at the WALC office at 6548 Newlin Ave. in Whittier.

To learn more, contact Stephanie Ramirez-Garcia at 562-322-1245, email walcread@gmail.com; or visit walcread.org.



"Eduardo and Oscar read, "Spying". Eduardo chose this book because he was fascinated by the concept of spies and wanted to learn more."



"Evelyn and Belinda start a new book together, "The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses". The book is about a Native American girl's love of horses."

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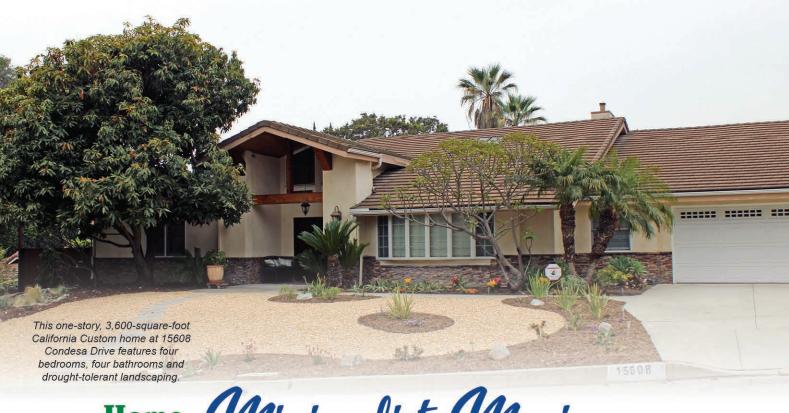


"I am pleased to say that I have now been driving my 2003 CL 55 Mercedes-Benz for about 20 years and have exclusively given my service work to Henrys located in Whittier. As you may know if you drive a Mercedes-Benz service at the dealerships can be outrageously high, and I've always found Henrys to be outstanding in terms of knowledge and abilities to keep your car moving forward at a reasonable price. They also work on other European cars like Audi and BMW. I highly recommend them to my neighbors of Friendly Hills."

Allan Nakken, Past President, FHPOA

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Quarter

Home Minimalist Magic

By Tim Traeger, Editor The Friendly Hiller

It's zen minimalism with a tomato twist.

This edition's "Home of the Quarter" is a 3,600-square-foot, one-story California gorgeous Custom with four bedrooms and four bathrooms at 15608 Condesa Drive. Originally built in 1955, the home was thoroughly remodeled in 2005 by famed local architect David Pickard.

It's a half mile from the shopping and dining along Whittier Boulevard and was close enough for Dr. Nathan Honda and his wife Helen's two children to walk to school. It's perfect for Honda, 65, who moved from Torrance to Whittier when he took a job as a pathologist at PIH Health Hospital in 1995.

"I know a lot of doctors who work at Pres, but they commute. They live in Palos Verdes or Newport Beach," said Honda, who grew up on the Main Island in Hawaii. The ex Air Force medical officer served from 1988 to 1992 and took to raising tomatoes because his father was a tomato farmer.

"He loves to grow tomatoes," Helen said. "He likes the vegetables and I like the flowers. Divide and conquer."

The home itself has vaulted ceilings leading to a

living room with a skylight installed by Pickard. Another skylight over a huge granite island anchors the kitchen with hardwood flooring throughout.

The living room is ringed with vintage sailboat models, a testament to Nathan's Hawaiian roots.

Pickard was also the contractor, adding skylights and wooden slats on the ceiling to match the hardwood flooring.

"He did an amazing job," Nathan said.

A 19,000-square-foot lot empties into a back yard made for entertaining. A gazebo serves as Nathan's "man cave/office."

Pandemic rescue dog Wilma rules the yard. She had gotten run over by a car in Bakersfield before finding her "forever home" with the Hondas.

Son Alex and daughter Michelle have their image as fixtures in the living room.

A lavish dining room rests just off the kitchen.

The whole house flows well, like the nature of zen.

"I'm so grateful we could do this," soft-spoken Nathan said.

"These lots on Candesa are very long and deep,"



The living room of the home at 15608 Condesa Drive is ringed by vintage model ships, a skylight and wood paneling installed by local architect and contractor David Pickard. It's in tribute to owner Dr. Nathan Honda's Hawaiian roots.



PIH-Health pathologist Dr. Nathan Honda enjoys his backyard gazebo at his 3,600-square-foot home at 15608 Condesa Drive. He calls this his outdoor "mancave."



During the pandemic, pathologist Dr. Nathan Honda started raising goldfish in his back yard at 15608 Condesa Drive. He uses waste from the fish to fuel his hobby, growing tomatoes.



The back yard of Dr. Nathan Honda's home at 15608 Condesa Drive features solar panels on the roof.

he said. "Because at one time the telephone company owned an easement. Eventually they gave it to the homeowners."

During the pandemic Nathan built stone planters in the back yard. He also created ponds to raise his many goldfish. The minimalist uses waste from his fish tanks to feed his tomatoes, which he gladly gives to colleagues at PIH.

"Now they expect them every year," he smiled.

A grapefruit tree stands next to a sweet lemon tree beside the gazebo, which is surrounded by a deck Nathan built of composite material that will never rot.

A giant bird of paradise overlooks a huge barbeque with a patio featuring dog tail cactus.

Kale, strawberries, a pepper tree with a huge magnolia stand beside the gazebo. Beyond that is a step-down second back yard, where the bulk of Nathan's tomatoes flourish in the Friendly Hills sun.

A mango tree in the front yard is surrounded with drought-tolerant landscaping and "California Gold" 40-inch gravel.

What do they like about living in Friendly Hills?

"It's close to his work," Helen said. "The school system's great. Within walking distance of La Serna High School."

"When I first came here, I wanted to be close to work," Nathan said. "I didn't want to have to deal with traffic. This is safe, clean and people maintain their properties here. Whittier has retail, shopping and the schools are great."

Nathan and Helen have been married for 38 years. They met in New Orleans, where Nathan went to medical school at Tulane University. Their daughter, Michelle, attended La Serna, UCLA and also graduated from Tulane.

As a pathologist, it's Nathan's job to diagnose diseases through a microscope. His family has found the right prescription for a wonderful life in Friendly Hills.

Images by Keith Durflinger



FRIENDLY HILLS HOME VALUES

Provided by Friendly Hills Property Owners Association

ACTIVE

Address	Listed Price	Bed	Bath	SqFt
16259 Aurora Crest Dr, WH	\$1,730,000	5	5	3,808

ACTIVE UNDER CONTRACT/PENDING

Address	Listed Price	Bed	Bath	SqFt
16284 Aurora Crest Dr, WH	\$1,368,000	4	4	3,132
15412 Mar Vista St, WH	\$1,448,000	3	3	2,042
15338 Mar Vista St, WH	\$1,998,000	5	4	3,200
9605 La Cima Dr, WH	\$1,499,000	4	4	2,614
9123 Altura Ln, WH	\$1,595,000	4	3	3,243
8224 Pinositas Rd, WH	\$1,600,000	4	3	2,400
15541 Lodosa Dr, WH	\$1,799,800	5	4	3,713
15236 Carretera Dr, WH	\$1,695,000	5	4	3,250

Average Listed Price: \$1,625,350 \$/SqFt: \$569.61

CLOSED

Address	Status	DOM	L/C Price	\$ SqFt	SqFt
8302 La Sierra Ave, WH	S: 02/27/23	16	\$1,000,000	\$337.15	2,966
8136 San Lucas Dr, WH	S: 05/02/23	31	\$1,100,000	\$493.72	2,228
8819 Colima Rd, WH	S: 01/20/23	68	\$1,220,000	\$507.49	2,404
14632 Montevideo Dr, WH	S: 03/08/23	4	\$1,300,000	\$466.79	2,785
8930 Lindante Dr, WH	S: 03/12/23	18	\$1,300,000	\$581.66	2,235
15405 Lodosa Dr, WH	S: 02/22/23	47	\$1,325,000	\$487.85	2,716
8219 La Sierra Ave, WH	S: 05/12/23	8	\$1,340,000	\$535.63	2,503
8414 Enramada Ave, WH	S: 02/03/23	40	\$1,367,500	\$388.94	3,516
8318 Colima Rd, WH	S: 04/24/23	121	\$1,388,000	\$468.13	2,965
8714 Portafino Pl, WH	S: 06/14/23	53	\$1,475,000	\$459.79	3,208
14988 El Soneto Dr, WH	S: 05/23/23	7	\$1,550,000	\$401.97	3,856
15838 Aurora Crest Dr, WH	S: 03/21/23	101	\$1,670,000	\$356.53	4,684
15726 La Lindura Dr, WH	S: 02/21/23	0	\$1,700,000	\$566.67	3,000
8423 Portafino Dr, WH	S: 05/12/23	10	\$1,898,000	\$590.73	3,213
9330 Monte Puesto Dr, WH	S: 05/19/23	9	\$1,910,077	\$607.92	3,142
15931 Aurora Crest Dr, WH	S: 02/09/23	4	\$2,498,000	\$431.43	5,790
8129 Newcastle Dr, WH	S: 03/17/23	13	\$1,716,888	\$383.92	4,472
9022 La Alba Dr, WH	S: 06/20/23	294	\$2,300,000	\$439.85	5,229

Average Closed Price: \$1,558,804 \$/SqFt: \$472.55

Maximum Closed Price: \$2,498,000 \$/SqFt: \$607.92





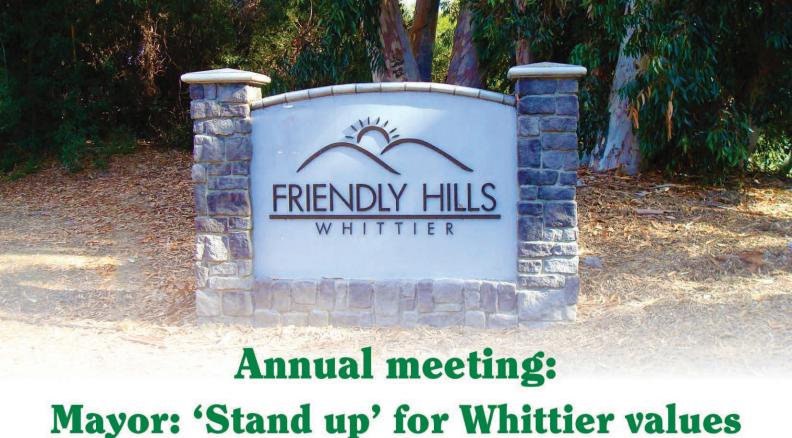
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By Tim Traeger, Editor The Friendly Hiller

sparce but loyal crowd gathered at the Friendly Hills Property Owners Association's annual meeting on May 4 and it was not only treated to free grub from In-N-Out but sushi from Azabu's. It also heard a heaping helping of information about the state of affairs in Friendly Hills.

"I always like to know what's going on," said longtime Association member Maryln Ghysels. "It's cool they get the police chief and the mayor and the city manager here," Ghysels said from the patio of Whittier Area Community Church.

True to form, Police Chief Aviv Bar, City Manager Brian Saeki and Mayor Joe Vinatieri dished out presentations about our unique enclave and the city as a whole. Councilman Octavio Martinez and Councilwoman Cathy Warner were in attendance as well.

Newly minted Association President Luis Carrion thanked outgoing predecessor Allan Nakken and installed new

members to the board, which meets monthly and serves voluntarily to uplift the community.

"Thank you for being here FRIENDLY

tonight and I appreciate you taking the time out of your busy day to be here with us," Carrion said. "It is an honor to be able to help and assist the community in what we're trying to accomplish in moving the community forward. We are here to protect and enhance the property values in Friendly Hills. We want to be a voice for our community."

Chief Bar said property crimes are our biggest challenge, but also the easiest thing to curtail.

"Unless we secure our stuff, you stand the chance of becoming a crime victim," Bar said. He urged people to never leave valuables in their car in plain sight, even if "it's a pair of cheap sunglasses."

He said the prevalence of the manufactured drug fentanyl is the No. 1 cause of teen deaths and urged people to "have a serious conversation" with their kids.

"One pill can kill," Bar said. "It's up to us as parents to

scare the hell out of our kids. These overdoses are really poisonings."

He said residents should monitor the web site crimemapping. com to keep tabs on what's going on in real time

Saeki, who has been city manager since Dec. 19, 2019, said five goals were laid before him when he got the job.

"Public safety, long-term financial stability, maintaining and enhancing the quality of life and promoting a strong economic base. That's the skeleton of everything we do here," Saeki said.

He thanked the community for embracing Measure W, a sales tax increase passed in March 2020 for public safety needs, as well as addressing homelessness.

"Because of Measure W, not only are you able to have a robust police force, the city staff, parks and recreation and public works. It's working for you 24 hours a day, 365 days a year," Saeki said.

Vinatieri thanked Martinez and Warner for coming and said, "I see what's going on from the west side to the east side, from north to south. This is a very diverse community. We have people who are very poor, all the way to people who are very, very wealthy," the mayor said. "As a city we have our own police department, our own fire, our own water, our own parks and our own land development. We have our Greenway Trail. We have stuff in Whittier most cities don't have."

He said Whittier also shares higher values than other cities.

"I wanted to ask you to stand up for these traditional values," Vinatieri said. "Patriotism, community, family. Those are things that are hallmarks of our community."



Whittier Police Chief Aviv Bar speaks on the dangers of fentanyl at the Friendly Hills Property Owners Association's annual meeting on May 4 at Whittier Area Community Churc.



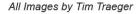
Joe Vinatieri, Mayor of Whittier



Brian Saeki, City Manager of Whittier



Former FHPOA board member Mark Nelson gets some sushi from Azabu's Chalo Martinez and Pedro Cabrera at the Association's annual meeting on May 4 at Whittier Area Community Church.





Friendly Hills Property Owners Association board member Lou Grimaldi, left, outgoing President Allan Nakken and incoming President Luis Carrion congratulate Nakken on his 25 years of service to the Association on May 4 at Whittier Area Community Church. Nakken remains a board member and serves as publisher of this magazine.



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Parks in the plan as summer starts to sizzle

ello, neighbors! Summer is fast approaching, and the City of Whittier has a variety of community activities coming up to keep you and your family busy. I'm especially looking forward to the always-popular Concerts in the Park series, which kicks off this year with a special classical performance in Central Park in Uptown at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 22 from the Whittier Symphony. The regular schedule will begin the following week on June 26 with 7 p.m. performances every Monday at Central Park and Thursdays at Parnell Park. Remember to bring a lawn chair, a blanket, and dinner from one of your favorite Whittier restaurants for the perfect summer evening!

Speaking of the summer season, this month I'd like to talk more about our local parks and what the City is doing to enhance its many play spaces throughout town. Here are some additional details regarding the renovation planned for our beloved Parnell Park, which has been a favorite among Whittier residents since 1967. The City Council has approved an expansive scope of work for Parnell Park that will accommodate up to seven much-needed soccer fields for all ages, as well as courts for basketball and everyone's new favorite pastime, pickleball.

Additionally, state-of-the-art, interactive playground equipment, slides and modern climbing stones will offer a more inclusive experience for kids of all abilities and play levels. Similarly, cooling stations are in high demand during the warm summer months, so the new tortoise-themed splash pad plaza will offer kids (and parents) a break from the heat. Parnell's Storybook Petting Zoo will soon offer a larger, more functional layout for those wishing to engage with the animals

The park will not only offer an enhanced walking path for residents to enjoy, but an expanded picnic plaza featuring more benches and tables, as well as designated areas for food trucks and events, full-service barbecues, and communal seating. Although it won't be ready for this year's concert series, the future double-sided "Parnell Bowl" bandshell is sure to be a major highlight of the renovation and will boast terraced seating for large crowds, proper acoustics and equipment, and special lighting to accommodate evening performances. There will be an increase from 175 parking spaces to 219 (including 44 EV-ready charging stations) that will make the park much more inviting for residents and visitors alike.

In keeping with Whittier's Tree City USA legacy,

tailored treescape, landscape, and drought-tolerant greenery remains an integral part of the renovation plan, as well as the addition of solar panels and vibrant, commissioned art pieces on display throughout the park. At present time, staff is working with the City's consultants on finalizing the construction documents and the City will continue to share status updates on social media as we get closer to breaking ground.

In other parks news, I'm happy to share that the City recently acquired 1.9 acres of underutilized land just north of the Greenway Trail near the current east end terminus at First Avenue. The stretch measures about .3 miles and will be designated as a new City park. Its positioning will make it easily accessible to local families and may also feature new fitness equipment for active trail users. City staff is working with a landscape consultant on preparing improvement plans and recommendations for development of the area which will be presented to the City Council at a future meeting.

Perhaps most importantly, you may have heard that the City of Whittier Parks, Recreation & Community Services department is requesting residents' feedback regarding thoughts, ideas, solutions, and more on how to improve all of our City parks and recreational programming. An official Parks Master Plan is currently in the works and will aim to highlight strategy and planning, inventory, prioritization, funding needs, and more related to park maintenance and upgrades that ensures Whittier's play spaces are modern, inclusive and engaging.

I encourage you to learn more about the Parks Master Plan process and take our community survey, which will help staff and the City Council better understand our community's unique needs and potential opportunities for expanding and enhancing Whittier's parks and outdoor play spaces.

Answer a few questions regarding your park usage and frequency, which parks you prefer, modes of transit used, overall quality of facilities and programming, and even GeoTag your comments on the map to share your own ideas with staff. Thanks to feedback, this guiding document will allow the City to offer safe, interactive and enhanced outdoor spaces and enjoyable recreation experiences for future generations of Whittier families. To take the survey, visit www.whittierparksurvey.org and share the link with your neighbors. Thank you for your involvement and I look forward to seeing you out at one of our great local parks this summer!



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How to Pay for In-Home Care Using the VA Aid & Attendance Benefit







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One of the most common questions we hear is "who can help me pay for the in-home care that we so desperately need?"

One of the most generous and helpful source of paying for home care is the VA Aid and Attendance Pension. It is a valuable benefit offered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to eligible veterans and their surviving spouses. It provides financial assistance to individuals who require the help of another to perform daily living activities.

If you have heard of the Aid and Attendance benefit before, you may have heard comments like the following:

"It's a long and daunting process- be ready for bureaucracy at its worst!"

"We applied, were denied, and appealed... and things have been in limbo for nine months ever since."

While many families have experiences like this, it doesn't have to be the case. At Loving Homecare, depending on a family's preferences, we can have them collaborate with social work experts who can pre-qualify and get approvals in less than 45 days, that otherwise would take months to achieve. If you or a loved one is in need of this support, it's essential to understand the qualifications and application process. In this article, we will provide a comprehensive guide on how to qualify for the VA Aid and Attendance pension.

Understanding the VA Aid and Attendance Pension:

The VA Aid and Attendance Pension is an enhanced monthly pension that is added to the regular VA pension benefit. It is designed to help eligible veterans and their surviving spouses cover the cost of long-term care, including in-home care, assisted living, or nursing home care. To be eligible for this benefit, you must meet certain criteria set by the VA.

Qualifications for the VA Aid and Attendance Pension:

- Military Service: The applicant must be a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran who served at least 90 days of active duty, with at least one day served during a wartime period. The specific wartime periods recognized by the VA include World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf War.
- Medical Condition: The applicant must have a qualifying medical condition that necessitates the regular aid and attendance
 of another person. This can include physical disabilities, cognitive impairments, or debilitating illnesses that affect the
 individual's ability to perform daily living activities independently.
- 3. **Financial Eligibility:** The VA also considers the financial situation of the applicant when determining eligibility. They assess the applicant's income, assets, and medical expenses to determine if they meet the required thresholds. While there is no set net worth limit, individuals with excessive assets may be subject to additional scrutiny.

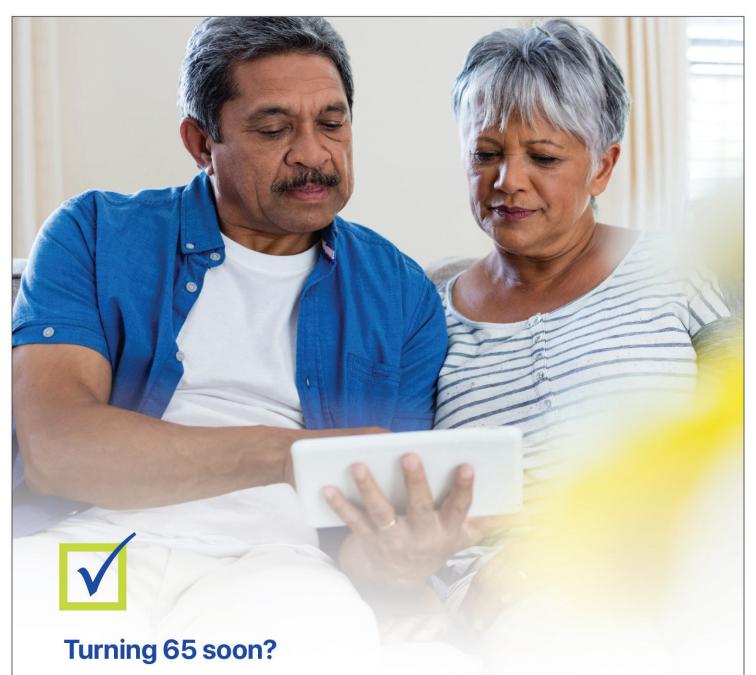
Application Process:

- 1. Gather Documentation: Begin by collecting the necessary documentation. This may include military service records, medical records, income and asset statements, and documentation of medical expenses.
- 2. The next step is to complete the VA Form 21-527EZ, which is the application for pension. It's important to be thorough and include all relevant details (note- part of the application involves a physician evaluation).
- 3. Submit the Application: Once the form is completed, submit it to the VA along with all the supporting documents (make sure to keep copies). You can submit the application by mail or electronically through the VA's eBenefits portal.
- 4. Await Decision: The VA will review your application and make a determination based on the information provided. The processing time can vary, but it's advisable to regularly check the status of your application.
- 5. Appeals: If your application is denied, you may appeal the decision. It's crucial to understand the reasons for denial and gather any additional evidence that may support your claim. You can work with a Veterans Service Officer or an attorney specializing in VA benefits to navigate the process effectively.

The VA Aid and Attendance Pension can be a significant source of financial assistance for veterans and their surviving spouses who require additional care and support. By understanding the qualifications and following the application process carefully, you can increase your chances of successfully qualifying for this pension.

What if you don't meet the financial requirements? There is good news- the VA has additional options that can assist even in these cases.

We are more than happy to answer your questions, and help direct you to the right options for your situation.



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Friendly Recipes By Lou Grimal



Looking forward to the upcoming summer weather and outdoor cooking. Here are some recipes that are near and dear to my heart. Remembering my dad and this foil pack was one of his staples for the weekends (simple, tasty and no mess). We used to make these at home and when camping in our motorhome. We would start the barbecue and put the foil packs on the grill and when we finished setting up the motorhome in our campsite, viola, dinner was served. I hope you try this at home in your barbecue or out camping. Miss you dad! Looking for pictures as you enjoy your back yards in our wonderful community.

Foil Pack Italian Sausage and Veggies

These delicious Foil Pack Italian Sausage and Veggies meals combine Italian sausage, sweet bell peppers, savory mushrooms, tender potatoes, minced garlic and diced yellow onions with olive oil and an incredible Italian-inspired seasoning blend. Wrap everything in some tin foil and bring them along camping or cook it on the grill. This brings back memories. My dad would make these during the summer both at home and while camping.

Equipment

Heavy-duty aluminum foil

Ingredients

- 1 package (13 oz) smoked Italian turkey or chicken sausage, coined
- · 2 cups baby red potatoes, quartered
- 3/4 cup yellow onion, diced
- 1/2 cup crimini mushrooms, diced
- 3 small (or 2 large) bell peppers (whatever variety you'd like! I generally use 1 red, 1 yellow or orange, and 1 green)
- · 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 and 1/2 tablespoons olive oil

Seasonings

- 1/2 tablespoon EACH: dried basil, dried oregano, dried parsley, garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon EACH: onion powder, dried thyme
- 1/8 teaspoon red pepper flakes, optional
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese freshly grated, optional
- Optional: fresh parsley, salt and pepper



Instructions

- 1. If GRILLING, prepare the grill by heating to medium-high heat (450 degrees F; 232 degrees C). Prepare 4-6 large sheets of heavy-duty foil; spray with cooking spray.
- PREP INGREDIENTS: Wash and dry the veggies. Coin
 the sausage into 1/2-inch thick slices. Chop baby red
 potatoes into 1-inch pieces (no need to peel). Finely dice
 the onion and mushrooms. Remove the stem and seeds
 on the bell peppers and thinly slice. Cut long slices in half
 lengthwise. Mince the garlic.
- 3. COMBINE: Add the sausage, veggies and garlic to a large bowl. Toss with the olive oil and all of the seasonings (basil, oregano, parsley, onion powder, thyme, red pepper flakes) If you like some heat, add salt and pepper to taste (I add 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper; add to personal preference). Gently toss until well combined.
- 4. ASSEMBLE FOIL PACKS: Divide the mixture evenly among the prepared sheets of foil or the prepared baking pan. Seal the foil packs tightly so no air escapes, but there is still room for steam to circulate. Do not double up foil (only one sheet of foil per pack).
- GRILL: Grill for 25-30 minutes or until veggies have reached desired tenderness (flip the foil packs at the halfway point and check for doneness to ensure your grill is hot enough).
- 6. BAKE in foil packs: Bake for 30-40 minutes (at 30 minutes veggies are crisp; 35 is perfect for us; 40 yields very tender veggies). You can set the foil packs right on the oven rack or on a sheet pan for easier removal from the oven. BAKE ON SHEET PAN: Bake for about 30-35 minutes, flipping/stirring the ingredients once at the halfway point. *See additional cooking methods in the last paragraph of the post)*

Notes

When checking foil packs for doneness, only open one packet to check. Once all the steam is released from a packet, it will take a bit longer to fully heat back up and continue cooking

Texas-Style Baked Beans

Texas-style baked beans are sure to be a hit at your next outdoor cookout. Even if you don't have a smoker, they'll turn out great, but if you do have access to a good hickory or pecan fire, take advantage. For a real Texas experience, use a bottle of Lone Star beer to make the beans and indulge in one yourself as they're cooking.



Ingredients

- · 1 tablespoon butter, or as needed
- · 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- · 1 medium red onion, diced
- · 2 cloves garlic, minced, or more to taste
- · 1 pound bacon, diced
- 1 medium red bell pepper, diced
- 3 medium jalapeno peppers, minced, or to taste
- · 1 cup beer, or more to taste
- · 1 cup barbecue sauce
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup molasses
- 6 cups cooked pinto beans
- · 1 pinch garlic salt, or to taste
- · cracked black pepper to taste

Directions

- 1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Grease a 9 x 13-inch baking dish with 1 tablespoon butter.
- Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Sauté onion and garlic in hot oil until onion begins to soften, 5 to 7 minutes. Add bacon, bell pepper, and jalapeños; cook and stir until bacon is browned, 7 to 10 minutes.
- Stir beer, barbecue sauce, brown sugar, and molasses together in a large bowl. Stir in pinto beans, bacon-onion mixture, garlic salt, and pepper. Pour bean mixture into the prepared baking dish.
- 4. Bake in the preheated oven until bubbling and browned, about 45 minutes.

Pistachio Mallow Salad

This fluffy pistachio salad is a real treat since it's creamy but not overly sweet. It's easy to mix up, and the flavor gets better the longer it stands. It's perfect for St. Patrick's Day, served in a green bowl.

Makes 12 servings



Ingredients

- · 1 carton (16 ounces) whipped topping
- 1 package (3.4 ounces) instant pistachio pudding mix
- · 6 to 7 drops green food coloring, optional
- 3 cups miniature marshmallows
- · 1 can (20 ounces) pineapple tidbits, undrained
- 1/2 cup chopped pistachios or walnuts
- · Additional whipped topping, optional

Directions

1. In a large bowl, combine whipped topping, pudding mix and, if desired, food coloring. Fold in the marshmallows and pineapple. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Just before serving, top with additional whipped topping if desired and sprinkle with nuts.

Banana Boats

These banana boats are great for a campfire during a trip to the outdoors. If you don't have a fire, use the oven or a barbecue grill. Serve with hot chocolate.



Ingredients

- 2 bananas
- ¼ cup semisweet chocolate chips
- ¼ cup miniature marshmallows

Directions

- Build a campfire and allow the fire to burn until it has accumulated a bed of coals. Rake the coals into a flat bed on one side of the fire.
- Slit each banana lengthwise through the peel, making sure not to cut all the way through to the other side.
 Stuff bananas with marshmallows and chocolate chips.
 Wrap each stuffed banana in aluminum foil.
- Cook bananas over the fire until chocolate is melted, about 5 minutes. Carefully unwrap the foil and eat with a spoon.

Tips

You can cook these on a grill or in an oven preheated to 300 degrees F (150 degrees C).

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I'm Jacob Villaescusa, a 24-year-old 2nd generation realtor from the Friendly Hills community of Whittier, CA. After graduating from La Serna High School, I joined Century 21 Allstars and quickly became one of their top performers. I'm proud to say that I'm the youngest Centurion Top Producer in an office of over 200 agents, and I'm committed to providing exceptional service to my clients and making a positive impact in my community.





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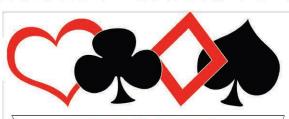
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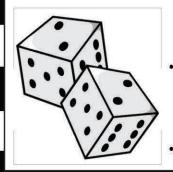
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