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Insights Newsletter

It is the mission of the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce to *BUILD* solid relationships and provide quality services which *SUPPORT* chamber members and businesses, in order to *DRIVE* the economic vitality of our community.

News & Updates

April 2026 | Volume 46, Issue 7

2026 Mayor's Reception

by Lily Phan

A few weeks after welcoming its 2026 board of directors, the Irwindale Chamber threw another *party to be remembered* for incoming Irwindale Mayor *H. Manuel Ortiz*. The event was held at the Irwindale City Brewery (formerly the iconic Coors/Miller plant) on a wet and rainy day. But the chilly weather did not deter the 88 guests who came from 'all over Irwindale' and as far as San Diego and Orange County to honor the returning Mayor. The Mayor's family also made a surprise appearance, along with the entire council members, city manager, the planning commissioner team, and key staff.



Attentive crowd soaking in the Irwindale Mayor's updates



Mayor H. Manuel Ortiz gives legislative speech



The sell-out crowd fills up the City Brewery conference room

Inside the pub-like venue, Chinese decorations were hung throughout to celebrate Lunar New Year, which coincided with this year's mayor reception on February 17.

Contributing to the double theme festivities were local favorite Mexican food by El Matador. Owner Juan Alvarado himself came to serve at the event to honor Mayor Ortiz. When asked if there would be enough food for the number of guests that kept going up, the restaurant staff assured that there should already be plenty as he had planned to cater 'generously' to this event. Host City Brewing & Beverage Company complemented the delicious food with its home brewed cocktail and spirit.



El Matador owner and staff serving.

Eric Dritley of Kearny Real Estate (Presenting Sponsor), master of ceremony, moved the event along smoothly until the end where networking continued in a dynamic fashion, and was *fruitful* as the beautiful fruit trays catered by *Juice 4 You*. When complimented on the event's success, Chamber President L. Phan deferred with pride much of the credit to her new staff and the dedicated team of ambassadors.



E. Dritley MCs introduces keynote speaker



Fruit tray display by Juice 4 You

45 Seconds to Shine: The Multi Chamber Mixer Experience

by Angelica Rodriguez



Attendees networking and engaging in conversation during our Multi Chamber Mixer

The Multi Chamber Business Mixer was held on March 13, 2026, at the City Brewing and Beverage at the Irwindale Brewery. The event brought together local professionals, entrepreneurs, and community leaders for a morning of connection, collaboration, and opportunity. Over 30 companies were represented, with over 45 attendees participating in meaningful networking and relationship building.



Marilyn Booker, OPPSWELL, and Venice Dunn, Union Station Homeless Services, making connections



The event welcomed over 40 attendees



President/CEO, Lily Phan, making announcements to the audience



The audience listening to pitches

The Multi Chamber Mixer also recognizes businesses who contribute to the chamber beyond their membership through active participation, sponsorship, and ongoing support. Businesses honored for their constant support for the chamber were Kearny, Sona Baghdassarian of Realty One, and Andy Lu Photography. Their continued dedication and involvement have helped strengthen the chamber's efforts and build a more connected and strong business community.



Sona Baghdassarian from Realty One Group accepting her Business of the Month certificate



Rachelle Herrera, from Juice 4 You, presenting her 45 second pitch



Brenda Cameron Potts was pitching her Potts & Associates, Inc company



James Chuong from TeamLogic IT delivering his 45-second pitch



Jhoana Hirasuna, Foothill Unity Center, Inc. being awarded her prize for Best Business Pitch

During the mixer, each attendee was given 45 seconds to pitch and introduce their company, providing a fast-paced and engaging way for participants to showcase their services, share their expertise, and make lasting impressions. This format challenged participants to clearly and concisely communicate who they are, what they do, and what sets their business apart. It provided a valuable opportunity for attendees to showcase their services, share their expertise, and make memorable first impressions in a short amount of time. The structured approach encouraged active participation from everyone in the room and ensured that each business had an equal opportunity to be seen and heard. As a result, it sparked meaningful conversations that extended beyond the formal pitches, helping attendees build connections, exchange ideas, and explore potential collaborations. The best pitch got the chance to win a Spotlight video that is an online promotional feature shared across social media platforms and a complimentary ticket for two to our next Multi Chamber Mixer.

Jhoana Hirasuna from Foothill Unity Center, Inc. won best pitch for her engaging and impactful presentation, which clearly demonstrated the organization's mission and community impact.



Venice Dunn from Union Station Homeless Services winning a door prize



Laura Santos, Royal Coaches Towing, Transport, & Recovery, winning a Starbucks cup and gift card



Joleen Tu from Monterey Park Chamber of Commerce business card was picked for door prize

Our sponsors generously provided prizes for three attendees, who were selected at random through a raffle drawing conducted during the event.



Refreshing fruit provided by Juice 4 You



Egg rolls made by Lee's Sandwiches

The event was made possible thanks to the generous support of sponsors, including Foothill Transit, Martin Marietta, and Kaiser Permanente, whose contributions help make these networking opportunities possible. Also, a special thanks for Lee's Sandwiches in Pasadena for their delicious croissant sandwiches and egg rolls, and Juice 4 You in Irwindale for their refreshing fruit provided at our Multi Chamber Mixer.

The Irwindale Chamber of Commerce looks forward to hosting more events that encourage connection, promote local businesses, and continue building a strong and thriving business community.

Member Spotlight: Trendy Thai – A Family Story of Flavor, Resilience, and Community

by Amanda Price



A vibrant showcase of Trendy Thai's signature dishes that captures the essence of authentic Thai cuisine

Nestled along the busy corridor of Arrow Highway and Irwindale Avenue, Trendy Thai is a hidden gem serving up authentic Thai cuisine with deep family roots and a story of perseverance.



Trendy Thai located at 16030 Arrow Hwy, Irwindale, CA 91706

At the heart of the kitchen is the owner's mother, whose journey as a chef began in Laos, where she was born and raised by her Vietnamese parents. Her love for cooking started early and continued as the family relocated to Sacramento and later Southern California. It was there that she refined her skills in Thai cuisine, learning techniques rooted in authenticity—including influence from a former royal court chef.

Today, her cooking is the foundation of Trendy Thai's menu, delivering dishes that are both traditional and deeply personal.

The family's journey to Irwindale wasn't without challenges. Prior to opening Trendy Thai, they operated another Thai restaurant in the Arcadia/Monrovia area that ultimately did not succeed. Determined to continue pursuing their dream, they relocated to Irwindale in 2017—and have remained a staple in the community ever since.



Their delicious Spicy Eggplant dish with sautéed tofu, chili, garlic, onion, bell peppers, in black bean sauce



The inside of the family homed restaurant

Like many small businesses, Trendy Thai faced significant hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Once supported by steady business from nearby corporations such as Spectrum and Southern California Edison, the restaurant experienced a sharp decline in patronage during and after the lockdown period. While recovery has been gradual, there has been a renewed sense of momentum. Since joining the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce in December, the restaurant has seen an increase in referrals and community support. In February, they took another step forward by expanding their hours to include Saturdays.

Welcome New Members!

THE CAMPUS | at SGV



EOS

Elite Office Solutions, Inc.

Trendy Thai's menu features a variety of customer favorites, with top-selling dishes including Pad Thai, Pad See Ew, Yellow Curry, String Bean Chicken, and Fried Rice. Each dish reflects the restaurant's commitment to authentic flavors and quality ingredients—offered at prices that remain accessible compared to many larger Thai restaurants in the San Gabriel Valley.



Fried egg rolls that are filled with mixed veggies served with sweet plum sauce

What truly sets Trendy Thai apart is not just the authenticity of its cuisine, but the heart behind it. As a small, family-run business, every plate is prepared with care, tradition, and pride.

While the restaurant is conveniently located on a major thoroughfare, it remains tucked within a plaza—making community awareness and word-of-mouth especially important.

Looking ahead to 2026, the owners are eager to continue growing their presence with the support of the Irwindale Chamber. Their primary needs include increased referrals to local residents and businesses, as well as guidance on operations and strategies for expanding their hours and reach.



Their famous Pad Thai with rice noodles with egg, & beansprouts in light soy sauce



MARCH Business of the Month



Website

Andy Lu Photography has contributed to the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce since August 2025. He is a passionate and experienced wedding photographer based in Los Angeles. He specializes in capturing the beauty and emotion of one of the most important days of your life, and his goal is to create lasting memories for you and your loved ones. As a destination and traveling photographer, Andy is always up for an adventure, and brings a fun and down-to-earth approach to his work.

With a keen eye for detail and a dedication to capturing the unique

Trendy Thai is more than just a restaurant—it's a story of family, culture, and resilience. The Irwindale Chamber of Commerce is proud to welcome them as a member and encourages the community to stop by, support local, and experience the authentic flavors they have to offer.

personalities of each couple he works with, Andy is committed to providing his clients with beautiful and timeless images that they will treasure for a lifetime.

Why Join the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce?

The success of the **Job & Career Fair** and **Legislative Luncheon Series** reflects the **Irwindale Chamber's ongoing mission** to create opportunities for business success.

Members of the Chamber enjoy access to:

- ✓ **Exclusive networking events** that foster business growth
- ✓ **Advocacy and support** to help businesses thrive in the community
- ✓ **Marketing and promotional opportunities** to increase visibility

For those looking to **expand their network, gain business exposure, and become part of a thriving business community, joining the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce is a smart investment.**

Stay Connected!

If you missed this event, don't worry—the **Irwindale Chamber of Commerce** regularly hosts **networking and business development events** to support its members. Be sure to follow the Chamber and stay informed about upcoming opportunities to **connect, grow, and succeed.**

📍 For membership details and future events, visit [The Irwindale Chamber of Commerce](#) or contact us today!

July 17 Upcoming Events

**Monday
May 11**

**Thursday
April 16**



IRWINDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LEADING THE WAY TO SUCCESS

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE IRWINDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S

45TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
PRESENTED BY **IDS**
REAL ESTATE GROUP

11 MONDAY MAY 2026 **GLENDORA COUNTRY CLUB**
2400 Country Club Dr. Glendora, CA 91741

Event Highlights
Registration & Breakfast (begins @ 8 am)
Putting Contest
Shotgun (begins @ 10 am)
Helicopter Ball Drop
Raffles, Live & Silent Auctions
Dinner & Awards Ceremony
Networking opportunities with 36+ companies

Hole-In-One Challenge
Win a \$10,000 Cash Prize!

Register to play or sponsor:
irwindalechamber.org/golf



Platinum Sponsor
Athens Services
KEARNY
MERIDIEN
PROFESSIONAL ACTION

Major Sponsors
Paycom | Health | Martin | Vulcan | American Express

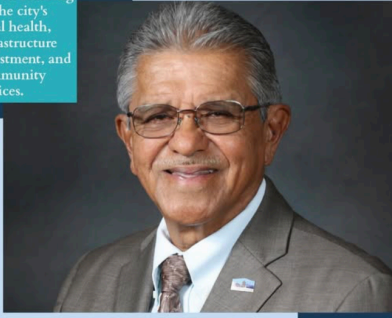
Now Accepting Volunteers & In-Kind Donations
For more information, contact our office:
diaz@irwindalechamber.org | (626) 385-3611

Golf Tournament
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

2026 MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ...


"Strong Foundations. Stronger Future."

Join us for an important address focusing on the city's fiscal health, infrastructure investment, and community services.



Presented by: **H. Manuel Ortiz**

Dan Diaz Recreation Center
16053 Calle De Paseo, Irwindale, CA 91706
Thursday, April 16, 2026
Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.
Program: 6:00 p.m.



Following the presentation, a social reception will be hosted in the park plaza.

2026 Major's State of the City
5:30 PM

Glendora Country Club
Glendora, CA

Dan Diaz Recreation Center
Irwindale, CA

REGISTER

Friday
August 7

Saturday
May 2



SAVE THE DATE!
5th Annual CASINO Night Fundraiser

♦ ♠ POKER - BLACK JACK - ROULETTE ♣ ♥
FOOD - BEER - FUN!

FRIDAY AUGUST 7TH
STARTS AT 5:30PM

SPONSORED BY:
IRWINDALE EDUCATION FUND

EVENT WILL BE HELD AT CITY BREWERY
1501 FIRST STREET, IRWINDALE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

\$50 per ticket

Casino Night Fundraiser
5:30 PM
City Brewery
Irwindale, CA



Boys' Health Rocks!
Empowering Boys through the Teen Years Health Conference



Saturday, May 2, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Conference Room B-1
Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Park Medical Center
1011 Baldwin Park Blvd., Baldwin Park

If you're a teen boy, between the ages of 13-18, you'll want to join us for a **free** health conference offering a variety of topics on your changing body. Topics include:

Natural Changes in Teen Years • Healthy Skin • Eating & Exercise • Sports Injuries Prevention
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) • Teen Dating & Violence Prevention
Depression & Seeking Help • Drug Use in Teens (including marijuana)
Smoking & Vaping Advice • Bullying, Cyberbullying, Social Media & Sexting

FREE breakfast and cool prizes for youth

A parent session will be available at the same time for any parent interested in learning the tools to partner in the health of their son.

Open to Kaiser Permanente members and the community. Space is limited.
Teen vaccines including HPV will be available for all Kaiser Permanente members.

REGISTER to attend this conference by calling
Kaiser Permanente Health Talks
(626)851-7763

Boys' Health Rocks!
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
1011 Baldwin Park Blvd
Baldwin Park, CA

Wednesday
1st & 3rd



San Gabriel Valley Business Leads Alliance (SGV-BLA)

invitation-driven professional alliance focused on lead generation, deal flow, and measurable business growth.

Why become a member?

The purpose of this group is to provide a structured, disciplined, and results-oriented environment where members:

- Build trusted, long-term professional alliances
- Generate, exchange, and close qualified business leads
- Strengthen business development, communication, and leadership skills. with ethics, accountability, and professionalism



**1st and 3rd
Wednesday of the month
from 8:30-10:00 AM
Register to confirm meeting location**



599 S Barranca Ave.
Ste 573,
Covina CA 91723

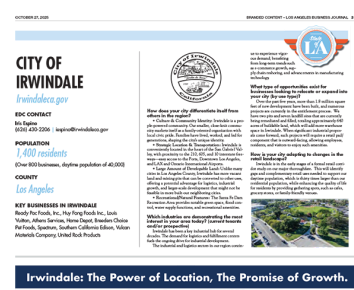
SGV Business Lead Alliance
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Realty One Group
Covina, CA

★ Member News

Irwindale among Best Cities to Live, Work, & Play



The October LA Business Journal highlights cities within LA County and its surroundings, utilizing data and Q&As with local officials. The feature article showcases cities and their unique strengths in culture, entertainment, and quality of life.



Make a Difference

Rio Hondo CDC invites community members to get involved by joining our general membership program. As a member, you can support affordable housing, economic development, and neighborhood revitalization efforts across the San Gabriel Valley.

For more information, please contact:
Kenneth Ferreira | Executive Director

Rio Hondo Community Development Corporation
11401 Valley Blvd | Suite 207 | El Monte, CA 91731
T: 626.401.2784 | kenfer@riohondocdc.org
www.riohondocdc.org

[Learn More](#)



Rio Hondo Community Development Corporation

Make A Difference

RHDC is building a network of engaged community members who believe in affordable housing, economic development, and revitalizing underserved neighborhoods.

As a general member, you'll receive:

- Invitations to exclusive events and community forums
- Opportunities to serve on committees and task forces
- Early updates on RHDC programs and housing initiatives
- A voice in shaping the future of local development

Who Should Join

Residents, business owners, educators, service providers, and anyone committed to making a difference in the San Gabriel Valley.

How To Join

Complete a short interest form at: <https://riohondocdc.org/join>
Or scan the QR Code

Rio Hondo Community Development Corporation
11401 Valley Blvd #207
El Monte, CA 91731
info@riohondocdc.org
www.riohondocdc.org

Ontario & Upland are offering new housing support

Ontario Offers Homeowner Financial Assistance:

The city is offering the **"Keys to Community"** program to assist potential and current homeowners. [Submit an interest form here](#)

- **First Time Homebuyer Program:** Provides up to a \$120,000 deferred loan for down payment and closing costs.
- **Housing Rehabilitation Loan:** Offers a \$30,000 no-interest loan for eligible homeowners to make essential home repairs like roofing, plumbing, and electrical work.
- **Exterior Beautification Grant:** Provides up to \$10,000 for homeowners to make façade repairs, including painting, siding, and landscaping. For more information, you can email the city at KeysToCommunity@OntarioCA.gov

Upland Provides Grants for Property Owners:

The city is offering grants of up to \$50,000 for owners of small multi-family properties (eight units or fewer) to make exterior repairs and safety upgrades. To qualify, the property must be at least 51% occupied by low- to moderate-income households. For more information, contact the Housing Division at 909-931-4300.

Whether you're looking to buy, sell, or simply curious about your home's current value, I'm here to help.

REALTYONEGROUP

 Job Postings

Meet your next employer - [Register Now!](#)



Absolute Security International is hiring in-office and guard positions!

[Careers Page](#)



Athens Services is now hiring at their Irwindale locations!

[Careers Page](#)



BriteWorks is now hiring!

[Application Form](#)



City Brewery Irwindale is now hiring!

[Careers Page](#)



City of Hope is hiring at their Irwindale location!

[Careers Page](#)



City of Irwindale is now hiring!

[Careers Page](#)



Foothill Transit is now hiring!

[Careers Page](#)



Georg Fischer Signet is now hiring at their Irwindale location!

[Careers Page](#)



Groupe Bonduelle is hiring at their Irwindale location!

[Careers Page](#)



Kaiser Permanente is now hiring at their Irwindale location!

[Careers Page](#)



Martin Marietta is now hiring at their Irwindale location!

[Careers Page](#)



Rexford Industrial is now hiring!

[Careers Page](#)



Santa Anita Park is now



Rize Credit Union is hiring at their Irwindale HQ!

[Careers Page](#)

hiring!

[Careers Page](#)

Southern California Edison is now hiring at their Irwindale location!

[Careers Page](#)



Vulcan Materials is now hiring at their Irwindale location!

[Careers Page](#)



Sierra Auto Group is now hiring!

[Careers Page](#)

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To ensure that you receive our emails, please add us to your Contacts & Safe Sender list.

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