

P A R A M O U N T

Pulse Beat

Paramount Chamber of Commerce
Founded 1924 • October 2025

Photos from the annual
Paramount Chamber
Poker Tournament
(pages 4 & 5)

*Paramount
Spooky Season!*

(See pages 3 and 11)

*Happy
Halloween!*
from the Paramount
Chamber of Commerce





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From the
Mayor's Desk
MAYOR PEGGY LEMONS

The arrival of October brings a season full of community spirit and family fun. Our spooky holiday events are just around the corner, and I encourage everyone to join us in celebrating safely. From costumes and candy to festive gatherings, these activities bring our neighborhoods together and create lasting memories for our children. Keep an eye on the City's social media for details about these spooky events, because you won't want to miss any of the fun!



October is also *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*, a time to honor survivors, support those currently fighting, and remember loved ones we've lost. It's a reminder to prioritize regular screenings, share information with family and friends, and uplift one another in the spirit of hope and strength. Every evening this month, City Hall will be illuminated with vibrant pink lights symbolizing our unwavering support to end breast cancer. Join us in our collective efforts to enhance awareness, stand by survivors, and advocate for early detection. Let's celebrate this season with joy and unity while taking time to support causes that matter deeply to so many in our community.

September Paramount Spirit Award

At the September 9 City Council Meeting, Maricela Parga was recognized with the month's *Paramount Spirit Award* by the City Council. Maricela moved to Paramount in 1993 with her husband and their four children. From the beginning, she dedicated herself not just to raising her family, but to building a stronger community for *all* families.

In 2003, Maricela co-founded *Mujeres Unidas Sirviendo Activamente (MUSA)—United Women Actively Serving*. What began as a small group gathering to support one another has become a powerful nonprofit that touches lives across Paramount and beyond. Under Maricela's shared leadership, MUSA has empowered families, strengthened parent-school connections, and provided critical support in times of need. From bagging thousands of treats for our *Santa Train* event to delivering groceries and resources for immigrant families facing hardship, MUSA always steps up to help others. The Mayor thanked Maricela for her decades of service and unwavering passion for Paramount. (She is the fifth from the left in the MUSA photo below. Also see photo on page 6.)



Teens invited to join Leadership Alliance

Calling all Paramount teens! The Paramount Teen Leadership Alliance is now accepting new participants for its upcoming season of youth engagement and community impact. This volunteer-based program is designed to empower local teens by helping them develop leadership skills, build meaningful connections, and make a difference in their community.



Members have the opportunity to volunteer at special City events, earn community service hours that count toward scholarship requirements, enjoy free excursions, and receive official City merchandise. Teens interested in joining can fill out the interest form available on the City's website at paramountcity.gov/community/volunteer.

Student Mayor for the Day



At the September 23 City Council meeting, Emma Romero, a 5th-grade student from Roosevelt Elementary School, was recognized as September's Student Mayor for the Day. Mayor Emma's peers describe her as an intelligent, respectful, kind scholar who truly personifies what it means to be a Roosevelt Bear. In fact, the entire 5th grade team proudly nominated Emma for this recognition thanks to her outstanding character. Emma consistently follows Roosevelt's TRACK to Success—being Trustworthy, Responsible, Ambitious, Cooperative, and Knowledgeable, demonstrating perseverance and heart in all that she does. The City Council proudly presented her with a gavel and certificate to commemorate her hard work.

Paramount's "Budget at a Glance"

Ever wonder where your tax dollars go? For over 10 years, the City has proudly maintained a balanced budget—but we know city finances can be tough to unpack. That's why we're excited to share "Budget at a Glance," a simple, visual guide to the FY 2025-26 adopted budget and how it was approved.

Get a quick look at how your money supports services, safety, and community programs. Check it out at bit.ly/budget-at-a-glance.

Do you know a former PEP Scholar?

Do you know someone who received a Paramount Education Partnership (PEP) scholarship? We'd love to hear from them!

Former PEP recipients can help us shape the future of this important program by taking our survey. It only takes a few minutes, and it's available at bit.ly/PEPSurveys.



Annual Paramount Chamber of Commerce Poker Tournament



As these photos show, everyone had a great time at our Paramount Chamber of Commerce Poker Tournament at Progress Park on September 26. We've been holding this annual event since 2014, and it's always lots of fun and a great networking opportunity. We're really grateful to all of you who turned out for an evening of cordial competition, good food and company—and lots of door prizes.

Big thanks go to event sponsors SC Fuels, Total-Western and CFR Classics and to these local restaurants for providing food and drink: Casa Gamino Mexican Restaurant, Gus's Deli BBQ & Grill, Domino's Pizza, Manny's Olive & Vine and Tropical Paradise.

See the very interesting photo on the next page that shows "Four Chamber Presidents" all sitting together at the final tournament table: Jon Tanklage (2014-15 & 2018-19), Ben Berg (2019-20 & 2024-25), Bud Jackson (1986-87) and Alison Millette (2025-26).

This year's winners were Jon Tanklage, first place (*in the center of the photo above*); Alison Millette, second (*left*); and Bud Jackson, third (*right*).



Three teams competed for the *Last Team Standing* prize, and Athens Services took the title. Each team member received a trophy and a \$50 gift card. In the *Putt for Poker* contest, Jon Tanklage (Marukan Vinegar) won a \$200 gift card sponsored by Transcom Telecommunications.

Thank you to all who donated door prizes: Ace Clearwater, Athens Services, Casa Gamino Mexican Restaurant, Café Corleone Italian Restaurant, Dr. Max Martinez DDS, Domino's Pizza, Carlton Forge Works Technology, GM Properties, Madame Pompadour Pet Grooming, Marukan Vinegar, Northgate Markets, SC Fuels, Total-Western, WaveFront Technology, Transcom Telecommunications, Weber Metals (an Otto Fuchs Company) and World Energy Paramount.

You can see and download additional photos from the tournament at paramountchamber@smugmug.com. Thank you again for taking part in this important Chamber fundraiser, and please join us next year!





Four Chamber presidents (L to R):
Jon Tanklage, Ben Berg, Bud Jackson
and Alison Millette (current).





Public Safety

Halloween Safety

TIPS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

As Halloween approaches, Paramount businesses can help keep our community safe and welcoming while also protecting their own establishments. The Paramount Sheriff's Station and the City's Public Safety Department encourage local businesses to keep the following tips in mind during this Halloween season:

- **LIGHTING**—Ensure that outdoor areas, entryways, and parking lots are well-lit. Good visibility helps deter unwanted activity and provides a safer environment for families visiting nearby businesses in Paramount.
- **DECORATIONS**—When decorating storefronts, avoid blocking exits, security cameras and sight-lines into your business. This keeps your property safe while still celebrating the season.
- **CROWD AWARENESS**—If you anticipate increased foot traffic in your business, such as for candy giveaways or themed promotions, keep walkways clear of tripping hazards and consider extra staff presence to assist customers.
- **CASH-HANDLING**—Limit the amount of cash on hand during evening hours. Use drop safes or make bank deposits before closing.
- **COMMUNICATION**—Report suspicious behavior promptly to the Paramount Sheriff's Station by calling **(562) 623-3500**. Quick communication helps deputies respond effectively and prevent incidents.

By taking these small precautions, local businesses can play a big role in ensuring that Halloween in Paramount is fun, safe and secure for everyone.



Paramount Spirit Award Winner

At the September 9 City Council Meeting, the September Paramount Spirit Award was presented to Maricela Parga, co-founder of MUSA. To learn more, please see "From the Mayor's Desk" on page 3.



Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month

To honor the cultural legacy shared by many Paramount residents during National Hispanic Heritage Month, the City Council invited Paramount-Tepic Sister Cities club to accept the City's proclamation on September 9. From left: Councilmember Annette Delgadillo, Club President Marcie Bridges, Mayor Peggy Lemons, and Vice Mayor Brenda Olmos.



National Preparedness Month

The City also observed September as National Preparedness Month, focusing on the importance of disaster preparation and emergency planning for individuals, families and communities. To stay prepared in case of a major emergency, Paramount works closely with Disaster Management Area E, an organization that supports 25 member cities with disaster response preparation and recovery assistance. Liaison David Ashman accepted the proclamation. From left: Councilmember Annette Delgadillo, Ashman, Mayor Peggy Lemons, and Vice Mayor Brenda Olmos. (See the related story on page 8.)



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EXCLUSIVE SICILY TOURS & RETREATS



We gathered at Café Corleone on August 26 for a Paramount Chamber of Commerce Ribbon-cutting Ceremony for *Exclusive Sicily Tours & Retreats*. Owner Connie Costa (*above, left*) wielded the big scissors with an assist from Chamber President Alison Millette. Connie leads bespoke luxury tours of Sicily and high-end transformational retreats (visit ConnieCosta.com to learn more).

Public Safety & Disaster Preparedness Expo

Paramount families, city officials and our emergency-response teams gathered at the Sheriff's Station on September 27 for the city's annual **Public Safety and Disaster Preparedness Expo**.


The free event featured hands-on demonstrations and valuable tips about being ready when an emergency occurs.

There were also fun activities and treats for the kids. Fire trucks and motorcycles were big hits (as always).



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PARAMOUNT
Chamber of Commerce

FRIENDS GIVING

Potluck

NOVEMBER

THURSDAY **20** 11:30 AM

2025

Paramount Chamber of Commerce
15357 Paramount Blvd., Paramount

Bring a dish to share and an appetite for both food and conversation.

Scan to RSVP



Networking Lunch



October 29, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.

15337 PARAMOUNT BLVD., PARAMOUNT

Bring plenty of business cards and get a 30-second intro to share about you and your business.

MEMBERS	\$20
PROSPECTS	\$30

CALL THE PARAMOUNT CHAMBER
562-634-3980 TO RSVP OR SCAN
THE QR CODE





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UPCOMING STOP



OCTOBER 11 at SALUD PARK
7167 Somerset Blvd.



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 9: Coffee at the Chamber: Paramount Chamber of Commerce (5357 Paramount Blvd), 8:30-9:30 a.m. See page 15.

October 10: Cinema in the Garden: Cortland Community Garden (7200 Cortland Ave.), 7 p.m. Movie: "WALL-E." Bring your own blankets!

October 11: Paramount Cleanup: Help us clean up the 105 Freeway and Somerset Ranch Road to keep Paramount beautiful! 8 a.m. until noon. Meet at All-American Park (13330 Orizaba Ave.). See page 12 for additional information.

October 11: Paramount on Wheels: Salud Park (7167 Somerset Blvd.), 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free family fun! See page 10 for details.

October 16: Halloween Dance: Paramount Park Gym (14400 Paramount Blvd.), 6-8 p.m.

October 18: Halloween Hootenanny: Paramount Park Gym (14400 Paramount Blvd.), 6-8 p.m. *Sold out!*

October 31: Halloween Haunted House: *Spooky family fun!* Paramount Park (14400 Paramount Blvd.), 5 to 9 p.m.



November 1 & 2: Xantolo: Día de Los Muertos: Progress Park Plaza (15500 Downey Ave.), November 1st from 5 to 8 p.m. & November 2nd from 4 to 8 p.m. Hosted by Latinas Art Foundation. See page 13 for details.

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Paramount decreases unsheltered homelessness by 33% in 2025

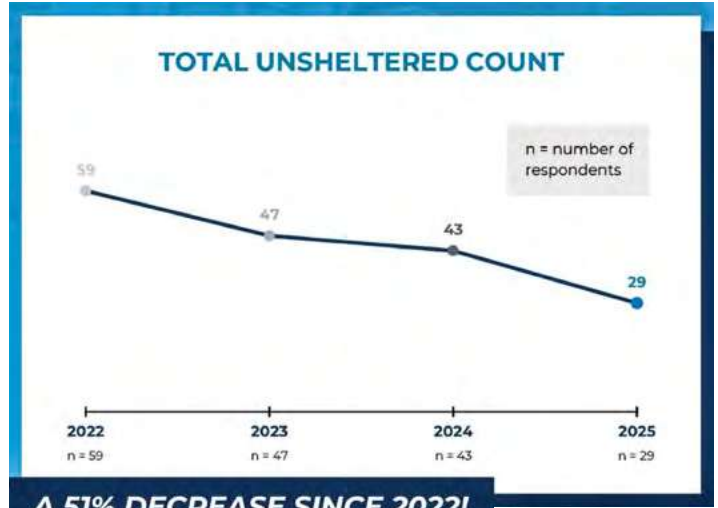
Paramount has seen a 33% decrease in unsheltered homelessness from 2024 to 2025. This represents an admirable 51% decrease in the last four years.

These are more than just statistics—they represent lives touched, connections made and hope restored.

Through compassionate outreach, diligent case management and partnerships with our dedicated service providers, we are helping more of our neighbors in need find shelter, stability and a path forward. While challenges remain, this drop shows that our collective efforts are making a real difference.

Every person experiencing homelessness has a story, and we remain committed to walking alongside them with dignity, compassion and care.

Read the full 2025 Homeless Census Report here: paramountcity.gov/government/departments/public-safety/homeless-outreach-services.



We need a motivated group of volunteers to help us clean up and revitalize the 105 Freeway and Somerset Ranch Road. Please join us and help keep Paramount beautiful!

- **Saturday, October 11, 2025**
- **8 a.m. to noon**
- **All-American Park** (13330 Orizaba Avenue in Paramount)

The City of Paramount will provide food and refreshments, and CalTrans will provide protective gear and clean-up equipment and supplies.

You must be at least 18 years old to participate in this volunteer event, and a consent form will be required. Please RSVP to this link:

bit.ly/SD33ParamountCleanUp

The event is sponsored by the City of Paramount, CalTrans, California State Senator Lena A. Gonzalez and California Assemblymember José Luis Solache, Jr.

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XANTOLO

Día de los Muertos



November 1st

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

November 2nd

4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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1550 Downey Avenue
Paramount, CA 90723**


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Ward Industrial Properties41 years 16311 Garfield Ave., Paramount CA 90723	US Storage – Compton6 years 1901 West El Segundo Blvd., Compton CA 90222
Vicky Professional Services, Inc.35 years 15975-A Paramount Blvd., Paramount CA 90723	Aji Verde Peruvian Restaurant5 years 8527 Alondra Blvd. Suite 150, Paramount CA 90723
Apollo Metal Spinning Co., Inc.22 years 15315 Illinois Ave., Paramount CA 90723	On the Mark5 years 77564 Country Club Dr., Suite 246, Palm Desert CA 92211
Cafe Corleone Italian Restaurant18 years 15337 Paramount Blvd., Paramount CA 90723	SELACO WDB4 years 10900 183rd St Suite 285, Cerritos CA 90703
State Farm Galli Agency18 years 11040 Washington Blvd., Suite A, Whittier CA 90606	Teaching Aids To Go3 years 15531 Lakewood Blvd., Paramount CA 90723
Demaria Electric Motor Services17 years 7048 Marcelle St., Paramount CA 90723	The Tax Sale Master3 years P.O. Box 5022, Bellflower CA 90707
Hunter Security16 years 15317 Paramount Blvd Suite 103, Paramount CA 90723	Alondra Property Management2 years 7300 Alondra Blvd., Paramount CA 90723
Madame Pompadour Pet Grooming16 years 13516 Paramount Blvd., South Gate CA 90280	Kustom Made Graphics2 years Call for more information: 626-348-4060
Medical Waste Services15 years 7321 Quimby St., Paramount CA 90723	Mujeres Unidas Sirviendo Activamente (MUSA)2 years Email for more information: rosie.salazar@musa18.org
Dusk to Dawn Urgent Care10 years 15745 Paramount Blvd., Paramount CA 90723	West Coast Furniture2 years 15356 Paramount Blvd., Paramount CA 90723
Roberto's Concrete10 years Call for more information: 310-537-7901	Arte Cafe – Bellflower1 year 17816 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower CA
Amrex-Zetron Inc.8 years 7034 Jackson St., Paramount CA 90723	Heartland Payment Systems1 year Call for more information: 310-936-9464

Paramount Chamber of Commerce Member-to-Member Discounts

As a Paramount Chamber of Commerce member, you receive these discounts from your fellow members:

Automotive

Herald's Garage (562-633-2136):
15% discount on labor and a free engine light reset.

Communications

Transcom Telecommunications
(562-630-1200, ext. 221): 10% off equipment (business phone services).

Financial Services

SG Tax Services (562-630-4004):
\$25 off tax preparation for Chamber members and their employees.

Vicky Professional Services
(562-634-1178): 20% off bookkeeping and accounting service.

Flowers

Diana's Flowers (562-529-5045): Free local delivery and free balloons.

Health & Wellness

Enagic (562-833-3823):
Free ionized alkaline water.

Exclusive Sicily Tours & Retreats

(310-428-1193): 11% off services.

Plumbing & Heating

Downey Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning
(562-861-1234): 10% off HydroJet service and/or 10% off material.

Premier Plumbing (562-955-0001): 10% off any call, any time.

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GM Properties (562-696-0200): Call Matt. 5% of gross commissions on closed deals will be sent to the charity of our choice in your name.

Penta Pacific Properties (562-699-1922):
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Casa Adelita (562-408-2360):
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Casa Gamino (562-634-6225):

10% off on food purchases.

El Peri Sushi Restaurant (562-408-0459):
10% off on food purchases over \$10.

Gus's Deli, BBQ & Grill (562-630-2802):
10% off all food purchases over \$10.

Mariscos El Perihuate (562-408-1661):
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Pika Tortas Ahogadas (562-529-5787):
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Smoke & Fire Social Eatery (562-363-3109):
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To add your business to this list,
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Coffee at the Chamber

On the *second Tuesday* of every month from **8:30 to 9:30 a.m.**

Join us **October 9!**

Paramount Chamber of Commerce
15357 Paramount Blvd. • Paramount, CA 90723




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To add your business card to this page, call the Paramount Chamber of Commerce:

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PARAMOUNT Women's Club

Founded in 1928, the Paramount Women's Club is a charitable mainstay in our community. The club meets the fourth Wednesday of each month.

For more information, please contact Beth Hauser at Ehauser3@verizon.net.



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CityScape

October
2025

PARAMOUNT BUSINESSES: **Keep Your Taxes Local**



Have you made an **out-of-state purchase over \$500,000** in the past 6 months? Do you plan to? The taxes you pay on these large purchases go into the County tax pool and the funds then get divided up among all of the LA County cities. As a result, **Paramount only receives a small portion**. However, **you can help keep these tax dollars local** so that the City of Paramount can continue to pay for essential services like public safety, parks, and road improvements.

State law allows the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration to **allocate the City's FULL share of Use Tax for large out-of-state purchases**. This happened when Paramount voters approved a tax measure back in 2020 known as Measure Y. **Public safety is the number one priority for our City**, and every dollar that is invested back into the City will allow us to ensure the safety of our community.

So, **if you've made an out-of-state purchase over \$500,000** for your business or plan to in the future and if you're interested in **keeping your tax dollars local**, please contact **Anthony Martinez, Financial Services Manager**, in the City's Finance Department at **(562) 220-2200**.

