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From Ancient Traditions
to Modern Twists



Summer Concert Series

Rock out under the stars.

Wednesdays

7 P.M.

Temple City Park

June 19

Electric Vinyl

Today's Hits

June 26

Fortunate Son

CCR Tribute

July 3

The Answer

Classic Rock

July 10

Neon Nation

80s Favorites

July 17

Raymond Michael

Elvis Tribute

July 24

Stone Soul

Motown, Soul

July 31

Silverados

Country Hits

August 7

Sgt. Peppers

Beatles Tribute

August 14

DSB

Journey Tribute

August 21

Hot August Nights

Neil Diamond Tribute



More info:

(626) 285-2171 | templecity.us/concerts



From the City Manager

Neighborhood Watch

It's 5 o'clock; do you know what's going on in your neighborhood? If you've found yourself a bit out of the loop lately, don't worry—we don't blame you, and we won't tell.

What we will do is provide you with a crash course on all the latest happenings around Temple City. Consider it your introduction to the who, what, when, where and why of summer 2019, with an emphasis on the *who*.

First up is Capt. David Flores, the top cop at Temple Sheriff's Station. Flores, who has served in the role since 2017 and with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for more than 30 years, sat down with us for a conversation about current crime trends, criminal reform laws, and—wait for it—the dumbest criminal he's ever caught. Turn to page 32 to read all about it.

Just in time for Mother's Day, we asked you to help us pay tribute to moms around town, and you didn't hesitate to let us know about the very special women in your lives. Meet the moms of Temple City on page 26—and while we have your attention, don't forget to thank your own mother, too.

Meanwhile, stay in the know when it comes to Temple City trends with our feature on Bistro Na's, your local outpost for Imperial Chinese cuisine, on page 28. To keep you current, we've also assembled a handy guide to the Temple City-themed content that's especially hot on social media (page 10), as well as updates on the subjects of previous CONNECT magazine stories (page 12).

One family we'll surely want to check in on down the line are the Jimenezes. You may not know them by name (yet), but we're almost positive you've spotted their postmodern "JimenCourt" house, located on the northeast corner of Rowland and Live Oak avenues. They take us on a tour on page 18.

Lastly, you'll find all your favorite summer events listed in RecCONNECT, a streamlined, easily transportable guide to the best of Temple City's recreational offerings. Discover even more information about the classes and events in this season's guide, as well as instructions for completing your registration, at templecity.us.

You'll receive another RecCONNECT bundled with the fall 2019 issue of CONNECT, with a standalone edition arriving in mailboxes in winter and featuring both winter and spring offerings. This issue's edition offers access to all the information you need to plan for our upcoming summer concert series, weekly Movies in the Park on Thursday nights, and annual Camp-A-Palooza, this time boasting a 1980s arcade theme.

This summer, we hope you take part in the simple pleasure of getting to know your neighbors. We know we will.

Cordially

Bryan Cook
City Manager

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Temple City Connect is the City of Temple City's biannual magazine that connects the community to City Hall.

EDITOR

Bryan Cook

MANAGING EDITOR

Brian Haworth

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tinny Chan

COPY EDITORS

Tess Eyrich

Christine Ziemba

PHOTO EDITOR

Iliana Flores

CONTRIBUTORS

Angela Bao

Bryan Day

Jesse Reffsin

DESIGN

Kilter

CITY COUNCIL

Nanette Fish

Mayor

Tom Chavez

Mayor Pro Tem

Vincent Yu

Councilmember

Cynthia Sternquist

Councilmember

William Man

Councilmember

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**New Kid
on the Block**

Taking Temple City's
Residential Architecture
to the Next Level



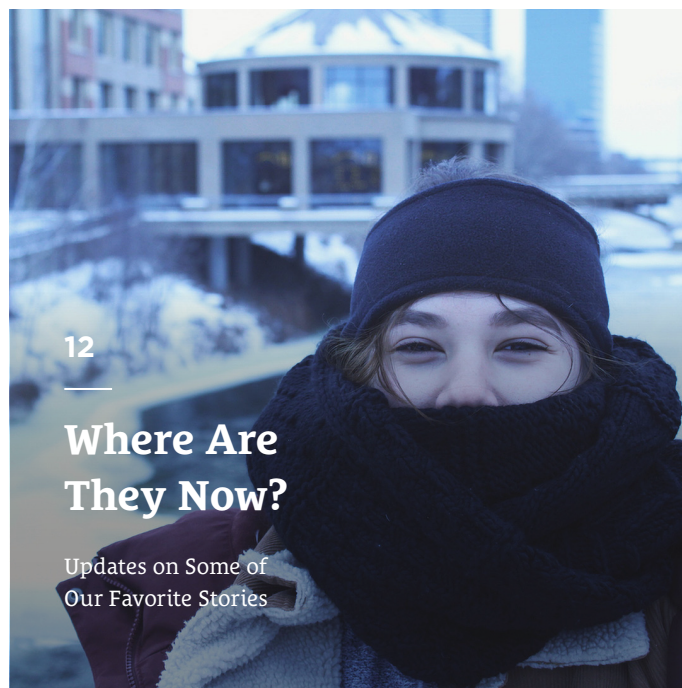
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Brush With the Law

An Interview with Captain David Flores

Out & About in Temple City

by Christine Ziemba



June 19–Aug. 21 The Beat Goes On

7 P.M.

Wednesday nights will again be rocking this summer in Temple City Park. Now in its 23rd year, the free summer concert series features country, disco, Motown, today's hits—even tribute bands. Bring a blanket or chair for seating. Food will be available for purchase.

More info:
templecity.us/concerts

July 11–Aug. 1 Family Flicks

8:15 P.M.

Watch films under the stars on Thursday nights at Live Oak Park. Bring a blanket, chair and snacks, but leave the alcohol and grills at home. The movies, which start screening at dusk, are family-friendly—and absolutely free.

More info:
templecity.us/movies



June 29 Free Compost for Residents

9 A.M.

The City once again teams with Athens Services for a free compost giveaway at Live Oak Park. Bring shovels and containers (less than 32 gallons) to get up to 30 gallons of free compost per participant. The use of plastic bags to collect the compost is prohibited.

More info:
(888) 336-6100

July 17 Get Behind the Scenes

5:30 P.M.

At the City Hall Open House all are welcome to take a tour, meet government officials, and learn about upcoming projects, current programs and services—plus collect free swag. Light refreshments will be served. Stick around afterwards for the free Elvis tribute concert at Temple City Park.

More info:
(626) 285-2171, ext. 4111

July 19–20 Camp-A-Palooza Returns

The popular Temple City campout tradition continues this year at Live Oak Park. With an '80s arcade theme, there are lots of activities and attractions to delight family members of all ages. Cost is \$75 per family and includes camp space, entertainment, dinner and continental breakfast. Registration opens June 1 and will sell out.

More info:
(626) 579-0461



Aug. 7 Meet Temple City's Finest

5:30 P.M.

Meet local law enforcement officers and learn about Temple Station's programs and services during National Night Out. Check out safety displays, tour police vehicles and meet K-9 officers at Temple City Park. There will be lots of photo ops and giveaways for kids.

More info:
(626) 285-2171, ext. 4342

Aug. 17 Aug. 24–25 Community Emergency Response Team Training

Temple City residents and business owners can get free basic disaster response training. Held in City Hall's Community Room, the three-day course covers fire safety, disaster response, and search and rescue.

More info:
(626) 285-2171, ext. 4342



Summer in the Stacks

There's so much more to a library than books these days. This summer, put down the phones and video games and discover what Temple City Library has to offer. Check out: youth reading programs, educational workshops, story time sessions, crafts, bingo—and even yoga.

View the schedule at:
templecity.us/libraryevents

MAY

- 16 Neighborhood Watch Meeting
- 27 Memorial Day (City offices closed)

JUNE

- 18 City Budget Review
- 19 Summer Concert: Electric Vinyl
- 20 Neighborhood Watch Meeting
- 21 First Day of Summer
- 26 Summer Concert: Fortunate Son
- 29 Compost Giveaway

JULY

- 3 Summer Concert: The Answer
- 4 Independence Day (City offices closed)
- 10 Summer Concert: Neon Nation
- 11 Family Movie ("Into the Spider-Verse")
- 17 Summer Concert: Raymond Michael
City Hall Open House
- 18 Neighborhood Watch Meeting
Family Movie ("Grease")
- 19–20 Camp-A-Palooza
- 23 Coffee With the Captain
- 24 Summer Concert: Stone Soul
- 25 Family Movie ("Incredibles 2")
- 31 Summer Concert: Silverados

AUGUST

- 1 Family Movie ("The Sandlot")
- 7 Summer Concert: Sgt. Peppers
National Night Out
- 14 Summer Concert: DSB
- 15 Neighborhood Watch Meeting
- 17 CERT Basic Training: Day 1
- 21 Summer Concert: Hot August Nights
- 24 CERT Basic Training: Day 2
- 25 CERT Basic Training: Day 3

More info: **(626) 285-2171**
templecity.us/calendar

City Photo Contest

Take your best shot.

**Submission
Deadline:**
July 31, 2019

Enter to win at
templecity.us/photocontest



More info:
(626) 285-2171



IN THIS SECTION

Live Oak Park Updates | New Park Plans
Improved Roads | Zoning Changes

City Buzz

The City Hall
News You
Need to Know

by Brian Haworth



Need a Lyft Around Town?

If you're without a car, getting from point A to B around town can be difficult. Public transportation is limited, as very few bus lines service Temple City. But now, the City is working with rideshare giant Lyft to develop a new model for suburban mobility.

In a pilot program, which would complement existing public transportation options, Lyft drivers would provide Temple Citians rides to anywhere in the city and beyond (like designated regional transportation hubs, Westfield Arcadia Mall and Arcadia Methodist Hospital).

Each ride would cost 50 cents—with the City subsidizing the remaining cost up to \$8. (The rider would be responsible for charges exceeding the cap.) Plans for the proposed public-private partnership call for a six-month pilot program costing \$150,000 from state transportation funds. If both the City and Lyft agree to terms, the program could launch by late summer.

*Photo: Thought Catalog
on Unsplash*



Spruce-Up Coming to Live Oak Park Community Center

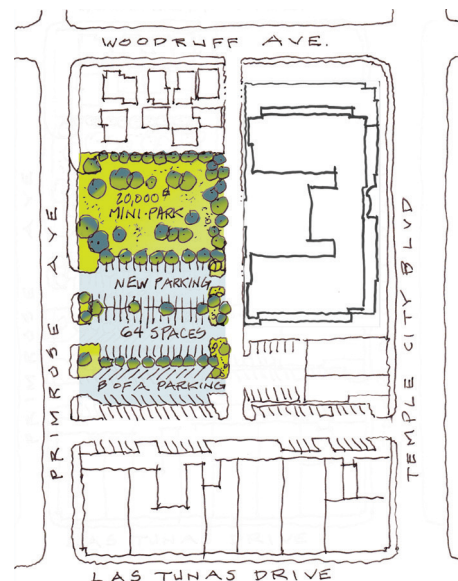
Live Oak Park Community Center will soon get a makeover. The two-year renovation project provides new paint (inside and out), new flooring, new window coverings and new public restrooms. Think of it like Chip and Joanna Gaines’ “Fixer Upper”—but for municipal buildings.

A little lift and tuck couldn’t hurt the 20-year-old building, which serves thousands of patrons through recreation classes, community events, senior luncheons—and even a children’s learning facility. While these improvements come with a \$400,000 price tag, the cost will be covered by Measure A, a 2016 voter-approved parcel tax that funds new parks and park improvement projects throughout Los Angeles County.

More Room to Roam: Primrose Park

Get your Frisbees ready: A new park’s coming to town. Council recently approved a design concept for a new park on Primrose Avenue, just north of Las Tunas Drive. The small park, about half an acre in size, will become the city’s third park, and the first in more than six decades.

The creation of parks is difficult given high land costs and Temple City’s built-out environment. The city is pursuing Proposition 68 (state) grant funds for planning and construction costs. If awarded funding, the park could be opened by 2022. Meetings asking for community input on park design and amenities are scheduled to begin later this summer.





Plan Looks to Improve Road Ratings

Potholes beware: The City recently updated its pavement management plan, looking to reconstruct and improve its roads (a total of 72.4 miles of city streets). Based on an index from 0 (poor) to 100 (excellent), Temple City streets were collectively rated at 58, which is at the low end of the “fair” category. Residential streets were rated in the poor category, scoring a 47. Major roads like Rosemead and Temple City boulevards saw higher ratings because of regular road maintenance from available regional transportation funding.

The city budgets \$1.4 million a year for road maintenance, and maintaining this funding level for the next 10 years would result in a downgrading of Temple City’s road ratings from its current 58 (fair) to 49 (poor). To keep road pavement conditions at the current rating of 58 for the next 10 years would require \$2.5 million annually; to improve citywide road conditions to a rating of 80 (good) would require \$5.2 million annually over the next 10 years. Additionally, the revised plan estimates that it would cost an exorbitant \$104 million to reconstruct the entire street system to an “excellent” rating.

The project will take flight later this spring, when council meets to discuss funding options.

Zoning Code Changes: Coming to a Neighborhood Near You

Temple City was incorporated in 1960, and after nearly 60 years, the city is wrapping up its first update of the Zoning Code. The comprehensive update follows the 2017 adoption of the General Plan Update, which provides a vision for Temple City’s built environment. (Zoning generally regulates the sizes and placement of buildings, e.g., why you don’t see fast-food joints in the middle of residential blocks.)

The update wasn’t developed in a vacuum. The proposed code reflects input collected at eight public meetings and through a community survey over the course of two years. The resultant three major changes (relevant to the typical Temple City resident) are:

- New multi-unit developments would require site layout to focus on shared open spaces. (Many previous developments were often driveway-dominated.)
- New single-family homes can be approved for up to an additional 300 square feet if the design reflects a historic architectural style, retains existing trees and places the garage at the rear of the property.
- Downtown commercial uses will focus on retail and restaurant uses to foster a livelier downtown environment.

The proposed Zoning Code update will come closer to reality in June, when council formally considers its adoption.

#templecity

A recap of
what's been
trending
locally in
social media

by Tinny Chan

Shy Boy 💕
#puppybowl
#teamruff
—@spcaLA



Photo: Courtesy of Animal Planet

Shy Boy Reps Team Ruff and Temple City in Puppy Bowl XV

If you prefer pups to pigskins, then chances are you may have caught the 2019 Puppy Bowl on Animal Planet on Super Bowl Sunday. For the televised game, 91 adoptable (and adorable) puppies from 51 shelters nationwide were flown or driven to NYC to cavort on a mini-football field, pitting Team Ruff against Team Fluff. In the starting lineup for Team Ruff was Shy Boy, a 7-month-old Lhasa Apso/miniature poodle/Chihuahua mutt, who repped spcaLA in the game. Shy Boy's team ultimately won the match, earning bragging rights and the "Lambarky" trophy. But better still, Shy Boy recently won the hearts of Temple City's Valenzuela family—and now has a forever home.

Temple City Community Blooms at 75th Camellia Festival

Move over Harry and Meghan. The Camellia Festival's Royal Court, composed of 10 local first-grade boys and girls, ruled the roost in Temple City (at least during the festival in February). The community supported and celebrated the festival's 75th anniversary in Temple City Park with three days of carnival rides, games, music and entertainment—fun for both royals and commoners alike. The colorful Saturday morning parade with bands, floats and dignitaries also proved a big draw. Proceeds from the 2019 festival will go toward local youth organizations.



angelakatsaros
Temple City Camellia Festival



41 likes

angelakatsaros

Reliving my childhood to the MAX at the Temple City Carnival! Bring on the dizzy rides!!! 🎡



rainaiscrazy
Summer Rolls



2,121 likes

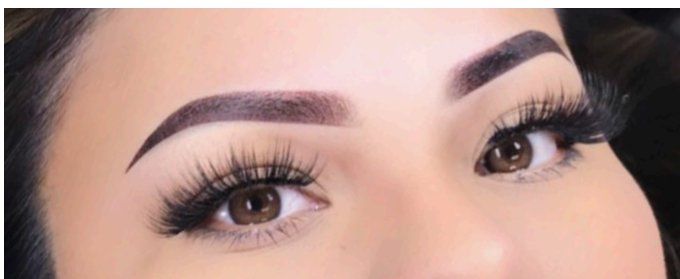
rainaiscrazy @androthekim0131 took such a great shot of me @ summer_rolls_restaurant when I was taking down the 10lb summer roll hahahahaha make sure to check out vid if you haven't already!

Pass the Salt ... and Pepto

Raina Huang is a competitive eater from the SGV who has the perfect Instagram handle for her eating adventures: @rainaiscrazy. Her first 15 minutes of fame came when she ate a 50x50 In-N-Out burger—that's 50 patties and slices of cheese—in 40 minutes and broke the world record. In February, Huang ate a monstrous 10-pound nem nuong roll at Temple City's Summer Rolls. Last summer at the same restaurant, she took on a team of four that included William Hung (American Idol) who beat her in eating 30 summer rolls (total 7.5 pounds) in under an hour. She lost with just six pieces left on her plate. Follow her eating adventures on YouTube and be prepared to be simultaneously grossed out and amazed.

No Bad Ombres Allowed at Posh Studio

If you need to get gussied up or glammed out, then hit up Posh Studio & Dry Bar on Las Tunas Drive. Its crew specializes in cuts, colorings, stylings, blowouts—and eyebrows. Ombre brow services are all the rage right now. Using two colors, one lighter than the other, allows the eye to look bigger and gives the face cleaner lines. The process includes injecting semi-permanent ink into the skin to create the effect, which lasts up to three years. No more painting the brows; they'll be ready 24/7 for a night in ... or out on the town.



Victoria Kim

Castellanos

Wen Lee & C/

Stacey

Beyoncé

Miss Temple



berly Fricke
Riley Saxon
Chris Saxon
ng Dante Yu
Mundo
City Zeus



Where Are They Now?

A Check-In with Some
of Our Favorite Stories

by
Jesse
Reffsin

Temple City's Royal Line Continues on the Rose Court

Featured in Winter 2017,
“Coming up Roses”

When we last featured **Victoria “Tori” Castellanos**, she was in the midst of a whirlwind tour of more than 100 public appearances in her role as the Tournament of Roses’ Rose Queen—the first to hail from Temple City since 1975. These days, her royal life has quieted down a fair amount. She currently attends Calvin College in Michigan (class of 2021), exploring interests in theater, marketing and Japanese. She’s also broadening her horizons—abroad—by traveling in Italy. Another Temple Citian, Sherry Ma, was selected as a member of the Tournament’s 2019 Royal Court. The San Marino High School senior was named a Rose Princess from a pool of more than 1,000 candidates.

Milk+T Goes Brick-and- Mortar and Gives Back

Featured in Spring 2017,
“Run by Women”

In 2017, Temple City native **Stacey Kwong** and business partner **Beyah Del Mundo** were making waves with the first-ever boba truck, Milk+T. We highlighted how they were inspiring other women to pursue business ventures of their own. Well, the truck is gone, but Milk+T is thriving with brick-and-mortar locations now in L.A.’s Little Tokyo; Beaverton, Oregon; and Las Vegas. Kwong and Del Mundo continue to empower women, not only as role models, but also by supporting charitable initiatives. They recently provided free boba drinks to participants in a bra donation drive for Rose Haven, a shelter serving victims of abuse in Portland, Oregon. We’re guessing that the duo learned the importance of supporting women early on: Both of their moms were on hand to cut the ribbon at the opening of their Vegas location.



Rams Reignited Under Coach Riley Saxon

Featured in Winter/Spring 2018, "Friday Night Lights" and Fall 2017, "Pictures in Time"

When **Riley Saxon**, a TCHS history teacher and class of 2007 graduate, took over football coaching duties for TCHS in 2017, the Rams were coming off a 2-8 record. Though there were doubters, Saxon felt the team's future performance would surprise many. Since then, the Rams' records have improved, going 5-4 and 4-5 in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 seasons, respectively. The winning percentages during the past two seasons affirm the players' ongoing dedication and Saxon's coaching, which he says benefits from his understanding of the "Temple City kid." Beyond records, the team recently won a \$1,500 grant from the NFL to upgrade safety equipment and was recognized by the league's Super Bowl Honor Roll program.

Saxon

SGV Humane Society Improves Upon Success

Featured in Fall 2017, "Waiting for Adoption"

The San Gabriel Valley Humane Society was already a success story when we profiled it in the fall of 2017. At that time, the society boasted an impressive adoption rate of over 90%. However, it seems that rate has only improved with time. While January to May 2017 adoptions numbered 203, that same time period in 2018 saw 313 pets adopted. What's more, total adoption numbers for 2018 reached 730. These improved numbers come during a bevy of good publicity for the society, such as a feature on Animal Planet's "Pet Nation Renovation" and viral YouTube videos featuring **Zeus**, a pit bull terrier mix who's up for adoption by the society.



is



The Comeback Kid: Miss TC

Featured in Winter/Spring 2018, "The People's Court"

When we spotlighted the **Miss Temple City** pageant last year, declining participation numbers prompted questions as to whether it could recapture the interest of its glory days. Now, it seems the answer is a resounding yes. 2018 saw a resurgence in participation, with the total number of contestants rising to nine, compared with five from the year before. What's more, there are currently 14 contestants slated for the 2019-2020 program. Social media marketing, as well as publicity garnered from the CONNECT feature, seem to have helped revitalize the program. This year's pageant will take place on May 11 and will be titled, "This Is Me," a reference to the movie "The Greatest Showman".

Lee and Stratton's Share Shed Breaks Down Barriers

Featured in Fall 2017, "24 Hours in TC" and "More Than a Garden"

In 2017, we chronicled attempts by **Wen Lee and Chris Stratton** to help build a stronger sense of community in their neighborhood. After a few false starts, the couple found a winner with the concept of their "share shed," a small shed used to share produce with nearby neighbors. Their idea exceeded their expectations and caught the attention of other media, including blogs like *lowimpact.org* and New Tang Dynasty Television. The husband and wife's green home and lifestyle have also gotten noticed, so they now regularly share information and stories about living sustainably, frugally and happily on their own blog, *frugalhappy.org*.



State of Local Education: Ongoing Leadership, Continued Excellence

Featured in Winter 2016, "TCUSD Redefines Education for the 21st Century"

Changes have been afoot since we featured the Temple City Unified School District (TCUSD) more than three years ago. One of the more visible shifts was the hiring of **Dr. Kimberly Fricker** as superintendent, replacing Kathy Perini. Dr. Fricker, whose 20-year career in education has included stints as a teacher, principal and assistant superintendent, issued a statement after her hiring that emphasized TCUSD's ongoing commitment to excellence. On that note, district schools continue to perform well with, Oak Avenue Intermediate, Temple City High School (TCHS) and Cleminson Elementary all being awarded the state's "Distinguished Schools" designation. Oak Avenue teacher Marlisse Reina was also recently recognized as a top educator in L.A. County. She's one of only 61 teachers countywide (out of 72,000) to be invited to the 2018 Teachers of the Year banquet. These recognitions come amid expansions to the district's STEAM programs, and the end of TCHS's German program following the retirement of beloved teacher Judy Graunke.

Chiric S

Changing Lanes: Dante Yu Makes Move From Karts to Cars

Featured in Winter/Spring 2018, "Go, Speed Racer, Go!"

Dante Yu's last appearance in CONNECT showcased his success in the competitive world of go-kart racing. At that time, he was coming off a year that saw him complete 20 races with several first-place finishes. Now, ranked as the country's third-best kart racer, the 16-year-old is making the leap from karts to Formula 4 (F4) cars—a move that's been eight months in the making. F4 is an open-wheel racing category intended for junior drivers and is considered the first stepping stone to professional racing. He'll be making his debut in the sport's fourth season with team Crosslink/Kiwi Motorsport, the reigning champions. Yu will remain connected to the world of karting by coaching younger kart racers.

Dante Yu



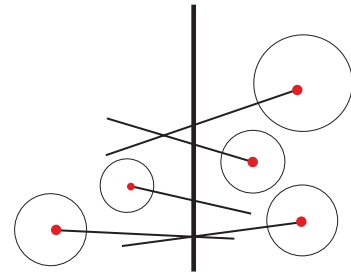


New Kid on the Block

An Iconic, Postmodern Design
Receives a Warm Welcome

by
Jesse
Reffsin





The chandelier above the stairs is one of many details that informs the home's aesthetic.

The “JimenCourt” house, located on the northeast corner of Rowland and Live Oak avenues, might not have the same cachet of the Hollyhock or Gamble houses—yet—but its postmodern design is turning heads while taking Temple City’s residential architecture scene to the next level.

Home to longtime real estate professionals Alex and Marjorie Jimenez and their three children, the 3,884-square-foot house (which gets its nickname from blending their surname with her maiden name, Betancourt) took years of planning—and dreaming.

“Throughout the years I’ve just been picking up what I like. I always gravitated towards a postmodern look,” says Alex, a contractor by trade. “I like the boxy, clean, sleek lines. And so when the opportunity finally came, I used all the ideas that I’d picked up.”

That opportunity arose after the couple got married in 2015 and started to look for a new home for themselves and their kids. They wanted a change from their home in Downey and were drawn to Temple City with the promise of good schools, favorable home values and a warm community.

They found their ideal property a few blocks from downtown, but instead of rebuilding right away, the family opted to spend a year in the property’s existing home, leaky roof and all, to adjust to their new city and neighborhood.

Teaming with architect Juan Kivotos, Alex laid out his collection of ideas. When they embarked on the project in 2017, none of them knew exactly where the home-building journey would take them.

Although home construction (or any remodeling project) is often stressful and divisive, the JimenCourt project proved the opposite. It not only built up trust between the couple, but also among their neighbors as well.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

A blended family: Alex and Marjorie Jimenez with their son, Nathan, and daughters Emilie and Anjolie.

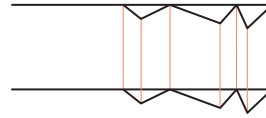
The couple prefers minimalist decor, clean lines and monochromatic color palettes.

Textured tiling on the living room's fireplace adds dimension to the sleek space.





A modern kitchen that any cook would swoon over.



The back doors zig-zag as they open and erase any barrier between the inside and outside.

Embracing the Assymetry in Design

Much of the residential architecture in Temple City can be classified as Craftsman, Spanish-style or California ranch homes. When there's been a departure from those styles, the homes are usually "Spanglishterranean," offering a mix of architectural elements from Spanish and Mediterranean styles. When compared to these constructions, it's no surprise that the JimenCourt house stands apart.

A work of stunning architecture, the exterior of the house is composed of clean, straight lines, which offer a contrast to the arches and angular roofs found on structures elsewhere in the neighborhood. Using a range of materials, the facade divides the home into several different forms, creating an asymmetry often found in postmodern structures.

Its singularity, from the street view alone, was bound to garner a degree of notoriety, but there's been little pushback to its construction. Attendance at the home's design review meeting was limited to a single neighbor, who supported the proposal. In fact, beyond an isolated comment from a local woman who mistook the house for a commercial structure, the JimenCourt house has received largely positive attention from those living nearby.

"I've had the experience sometimes where I'll come out early in the morning, and there'll be some guy standing on my front walk," says Alex. "At first, I'm, you know, startled. But then he'll just be admiring the house, telling me how much he loves it. That makes us feel good because this is a product of our efforts."

A Space for Gatherings

Stepping inside the home reveals an interior where an attention to detail permeates each design choice. Elevated ceilings, lines of black and gray and floor-to-ceiling windows lend the home a solid, yet airy, quality. An open-concept floor plan connects all the rooms in the space.

That last design feature reflects the importance of family and group gatherings. "If I'm cooking, and we're having a reunion, I want to be involved," explains Marjorie. "I don't want to be slaving in the kitchen and not know what's going on." Alex adds that hosting get-togethers for his extended family was a driving factor in the home's open layout. "I've got the big family," he notes. "They're all around, like ants!"

The desire for the house to serve as a gathering place is evident in a number of other design choices. The kitchen itself is spacious, with an expansive counter that offers plenty of room for multiple people to cook together. Replete with a second sink for food prep and dishwashing (one of Marjorie's favorite features of the home), the room is perfectly suited to prep for large events and family dinners alike. A black backsplash ties the space into the gray and black motif found throughout the house, with Marjorie's collection of Rae Dunn pottery adding a homey touch.

Beside the kitchen, a set of accordion glass doors opens into the backyard. When the doors are retracted, the backyard, with its outdoor dining area and barbecue, almost becomes an extension of the house. The adjacent, partially in-ground pool incorporates concrete ledges and underwater stools to create an area not just for swimming, but also with additional seating.



ABOVE & RIGHT

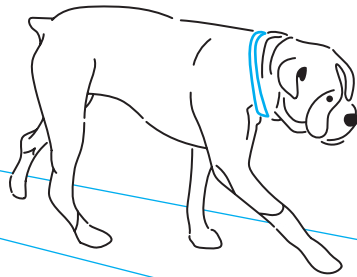
The home's open floor plan allows for natural light, open sight lines and active uses.

The pool's wide concrete ledges and underwater stools provide additional—and unexpected—seating for large gatherings.

Beyond the Open Layout

The second floor of the house favors privacy over the open floor plan. With four bedrooms located on the top floor, all with their own walk-in closets and bathrooms, each of the three kids has their own room. Alex and Marjorie's spacious master bedroom serves as a retreat from everyday stresses.

While their dream house sports a number of innovative features, the couple picks a few design components that they would have changed. "A doggy door would have been nice," says Marjorie. "Some doors are a little tight. Maybe in some areas a sliding door would have worked better." Now that he's lived in the home, Alex wishes he would have made the laundry room bigger to better accommodate the washer and dryer. Hindsight can be such a blessing—and a curse.



Buster enjoys dips in the pool on hot days and is constantly in search for more treats.

Although the family moved into JimenCourt late last year, they already feel rooted in the neighborhood and in Temple City. The home's unique design has played a big role in helping cement that sentiment. "Everyone here has been so welcoming to us and the house has really served as an icebreaker in that regard," Marjorie says.

While the house was being built, the construction project served as a conversation starter for the neighborhood. Longtime residents, curious about the larger, modern structure replacing the old home, came out to meet the Jimenez family. Fast-forward two years, and the house has become the go-to hub for now-annual neighborhood get-togethers.

"It's been a topic of conversation since we moved in," Alex adds. "People are really interested in the design and will often stop by to check it out and talk with us about it. That's been a great jumping-off point for us to find a sense of belonging in the neighborhood. We love it."

The house itself has become a trendsetter, introducing other modern, architectural styles in Temple City. City Hall has seen an increase in residential proposals taking cues from the JimenCourt design. So while the home remains the only known modern house in town, it may not hold that title for much longer. •

Meet the Moms of Temple City

Moms. They bring home the bacon and fry it up in the pan. Then, they usually wash that pan and associated dishes, before checking homework, paying bills, nursing the sick and reading bedtime stories. If they're lucky, they might have a minute or two for a book or Netflix before doing it all over again the next day. Moms are amazing, and we asked a few Temple City kids to talk about theirs:

by Iliana Flores



Vanessa and Selena Shea

ABOUT HER MOM

Vanessa Shea

I love my mom so much. She's my best friend. She loves animals and gives the best hugs. The best ones.

—Selena Shea, 2



Lena Chui and Christa Wong

ABOUT HER MOM

Lena Chui

Mom is caring, supporting and encouraging. She does so much, like helps with the Sister City Exchange Program, chaperones on field trips, volunteers at my school and educates kids as a teacher. She also wants me to experience different cultures and broaden my mind, so she's taken me to places in Asia, Europe and Canada. Those trips are experiences I'll never forget.

—Christa Wong, 11

Anita Cheng and Zoe Hsu



ABOUT HER MOM

Anita Cheng

My mom is the most selfless person. She persevered through tough financial and personal problems when moving to the U.S., and she worked so hard to make sure I had the opportunities she never did during her childhood. One of my fondest memories is when she took me to my favorite ice cream store after I was so disappointed after a piano competition. She simply drove me there without saying anything, and sat with me until I felt better. While the sundae helped ease the pain a little, her being there was the cherry on top.

—Zoe Hsu, 17



Michelle, Andrew and Madison Boecking

ABOUT THEIR MOM

Michelle Boecking

My mom is the one person who has my back. She's my No. 1 fan. She helps me through everything, and always provides the best advice. It's like free counseling. Her unconditional love is the best support I have.

—Andrew Boecking, 14

My mom is always there for me. She works hard and puts her heart into everything she does. My favorite memory with her was our trip to New York City. While we were there, she took me out for a special girls night to see my first Broadway show, "Wicked". The show was just as amazing as our girls night.

—Madison Boecking, 12



Hilda, Liana and Ian Garcia

ABOUT THEIR MOM

Hilda Garcia

Here are a couple of my favorite childhood memories with Mom: Whenever I would cry, she would hold me in her arms, and sing to me until I stopped crying. I still remember the songs. Another memory is when we walked 2 miles to eat a salad, and then questioned why we walked to eat something healthy. We should have gotten pizza or French fries at least!

—Liana Garcia, 14

When I was young, my mom went boogie boarding with me at the beach. It was her first time ever trying something like that. Although she was very nervous, and had no clue what to do, she tried anyway. But we spent time together, and that's something I'll never forget. I don't think I'll ever get her to try surfing, though. Her generosity and love for everyone sets an example for our entire family. She does so many things, like cooking, driving my sister to school, helping me pick clothes and waking up every night to check my sister's blood levels. She's beautiful—inside and out.

—Ian Garcia, 18



Estela, Alyssa, Alani and Kaylee Tien

ABOUT THEIR MOM

Estela Tien

I love spending time with my mom—especially when we go back to Hawaii with her every year. We get to build sandcastles and look for shells. But the best part is having shaved ice after the beach! She's the best mom I could ever have. She takes care of me when I'm sick, and when I trip, she picks me up, and I like when she says, "Are you OK?" And I am!

—Alyssa Tien, 7

My mom always makes time to pick me up from school, and asks me how my day was. She also helps me with homework and is always nice. I love going to Legoland with her. She goes on rides with me, but my favorite is going on the big slide. She makes it so much fun.

—Alani Tien, 4

I'm hungry.

—Kaylee, 9 months



Bistro Na's

From Ancient
Traditions to
Modern Twists

by
Angela
Bao

Bistro Na's in Temple City has earned a reputation for creating food fit for a king—or more specifically, for an emperor of the Qing Dynasty. It's one of the few restaurants in the United States that serves Imperial Chinese cuisine, otherwise known as *gong ting cai*, offering an elegant and upscale take on Chinese food. Although the city boasts a wide variety of excellent Asian food, there was a noticeable dearth of high-end Chinese restaurants; that is, until Bistro Na's opened in late 2016.

**LEFT**

Diced black pepper honey Angus beef: What the dish might lack in flash, it makes up for in flavor.

FOLLOWING PAGE

Chef Tian's California creation: Imperial marinated beef with smoked Gouda, topped with a Mexican-inspired salsa.

Photos by Ariel Ip

Bistro Na's is the first (and currently only) U.S. offshoot of Beijing-based restaurant group Na Jia Xiao Guan, which built a reputation in China for its unusual and high-quality dishes, complemented by elegant dining environments. With a menu derived from recipes from the final imperial dynasty in China (1644-1912), combined with a luxurious interior transported from the set of a period drama, this stateside flagship serves beautifully plated dishes made from both traditional Chinese and local ingredients.

Traveling Back to Imperial China

The restaurant's main dining area was designed to resemble a traditional Chinese courtyard, with ornate wood paneling and classical Chinese instruments like the *pipa* and *erhu* used for decorative purposes. The walls are painted a rich, bright red—a lucky color in Chinese culture. Matching red lanterns hang from the ceiling and cast a warm, comforting glow onto the diners. For more private dining options, secluded booths flank one side, and there are also spacious private rooms in the back, decorated almost as lounges, for larger parties.

The food, of course, has proven to be as sophisticated as the surroundings. One of the co-owners, Jinglin Na, is purportedly from one of the “Eight Banners” families—Chinese nobility who often served as advisors to the emperor and provided military might. Bistro Na's menu incorporates the recipes that were passed down to him from his ancestors.

“We still use the same cooking methods from back then,” adds Yong Tian, Bistro Na's Beijing-trained executive chef, who has been cooking professionally for more than 25 years.

For instance, the aptly named Emperor's Jar soup is one of the restaurant's most well-known dishes and made the same way as it was during the Qing Dynasty. According to Chinese folklore, the emperor would give his Eight Banners men valuable gifts of food after they returned from battle, which they would then use to make the Emperor's Jar soup. Stewed for more than eight hours in pure spring water, the soup uses ingredients like beef tendon and fish maw, which are considered highly nutritional in traditional Chinese medicine. The soup is served in an earthy-red clay bowl suspended over a candle flame to keep it warm. The broth is rich, thick and a touch fishy. After eight hours of stewing, the beef tendon is tender, but the fish maw still retains its slight crunch. The soup comes with three sides: cilantro, fermented bean curd and rice. Chef Tian shares that traditionally, the soup is either eaten as is, or with only one of the side items, but diners are always welcome to freestyle and mix the sides to match their personal preference.

Presentation at Bistro Na's is as much a priority as flavor and authenticity. The crispy shrimp, one of its most popular items, arrives in an elegantly piled pyramid on a flat porcelain plate. The shell is partially removed, and the whole shrimp is fried in a sauce that is sweet, tart and slightly spicy. The shell is completely edible, which adds a nice, extremely flavorful crunch to the tenderness of the meat.

The diced black pepper honey Angus beef has a simple presentation: Neatly cut cubes of meat are stacked on both ends of a banana leaf. But what the dish lacks for in flash, it makes up for in flavor. The honey glaze adds a hint of sweetness that balances the sharp tang of the black pepper sauce, while never overpowering the flavor of the Angus beef.

“We still use the same cooking methods from back then.”

—Yong Tian,
Bistro Na's Executive Chef

Experimenting With Local Flavors

Bistro Na's dishes are derived largely from Manchurian food, since the Qing dynasty rulers hailed from the Manchu ethnic minority. The regional cuisine, which is actually a blend of styles from different areas, was popular in Beijing, but not as well-known outside of the capital—and especially not in the U.S., shares Chef Tian.

Knowing that many people in California may not be familiar with Manchurian food, Chef Tian made it a point to incorporate local flavors into the menu. “My thinking is, how can I get a wide array of customers to come and expand their minds?” says Chef Tian. “I had to first understand what they like. So, I took the original flavors and added some elements, things that will suit the locals’ tastes in food and drink.”

Imperial marinated beef with smoked Gouda, which is exclusive to the Temple City location, is drizzled in cheese and uses a Mexican-inspired salsa as its sauce. Concerned that local diners may not be used to the strong garlic, vinegar and soy sauce traditionally used in the dish, Tian borrowed from the Latino culture to create a truly multicultural entree.

Even the black pepper honey Angus beef, a popular Chinese staple, took inspiration from American culture. Noticing that Americans prefer larger cuts of steak to the smaller strips used in Chinese food, Chef Tian decided to follow suit and cut the beef into bigger cubes to mimic a filet.

His experiments have been a success, with Bistro Na's building quite the following since its opening. Some diners favor the traditional dishes, while others enjoy the Southern California fusion elements. And although there are plenty of Chinese cuisine options to choose from throughout Temple City, Bistro Na's is still the only place where you can eat like royalty. •



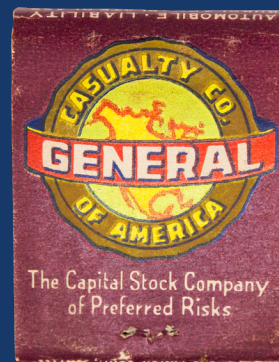
History Books

by Tess Eyrich

Once a standard parting gift, the matchbook usually advertised a restaurant or bar—and the experience that could be had there—long after a guest returned home, making it a cost-effective branding tool long before the concept of branding had come into play.

Nowadays, matchbooks serve as part of the historical record. They resurrect the aspects of cities forgotten in the wake of development, bringing to light the character of neighborhood establishments that no longer exist but left lasting—albeit invisible to the naked eye—impressions. Temple City's own collection of matchbooks is one such record.

Maybe you're new to Casa Del Rey or The Hunters' Inn, left with only their matchbook covers to help you imagine what they might've been like in their heyday. Or maybe for a brief moment, one of these matchbooks spirits you away to another place and time. A dimly lit restaurant where you shared an intimate meal with a loved one. A gathering at the bar with friends and food. A memory illuminated, then out like a light.



Brush With the Law:

Captain David Flores

Temple City's top cop on policing trends, crime prevention and the dumbest criminal he's ever arrested.

Tell us about changes you've seen in Temple City's law enforcement landscape over the past three decades.

Challenges faced by law enforcement are always evolving. Today it's a deputy's exposure to fentanyl, a synthetic opioid about 50 times stronger than heroin. Law enforcement personnel are now at risk of accidental exposure in the field through routine activities, like checking for drugs during vehicle stops. Coming in contact with a small amount can lead to significant health-related complications, even death. Now our officers are trained in preventing exposure. They're also required to carry NARCAN (naloxone), which blocks the effects of opioids and can save the lives of those who've overdosed [on fentanyl].

Law enforcement agencies are also fielding more calls related to the homeless and those with mental illness. Deputies now address mental health issues and conduct crisis intervention in addition to peacekeeping. The LASD requires our deputies to receive ongoing training to better handle mental health-related situations. So much is asked of our deputies in the field. Often, they have seconds to deal with people on the worst day of their lives.

For the first time in 20 years, California's rate of property crimes exceeds that of the rest of the nation. Why do you think so?

With the passage of Propositions 47 and 57, many felony crimes were downgraded to more lenient misdemeanor sentences. Assembly Bill (AB) 109, the Public Safety Realignment Act, also allowed for the early release of criminals back into our community to reduce the state's prison population.

With more criminals released into our communities, and the softening of theft and narcotics laws, we've experienced challenges in preventing many types of crimes. We found that many who have substance-abuse problems account for a significant number of theft- and assault-related incidents in our community, including assaults on law enforcement. Often, criminals who are arrested are either issued a "promise to appear" [in court] citation or are quickly released back into the community, even those who've been arrested dozens of times for the same type of offense.

Compared to the other communities serviced by Temple Station, how is Temple City doing in way of crime statistics?

Each community is different in its socioeconomics, demographics and terrain. Because of Temple City's affluence, we deal with property crimes the most. But in general, the calls we receive for Temple City are much lower in number than the other areas we service.

In 2018 alone, nearly one out of three (32%) crimes in the city were associated with residential burglaries, followed closely by grand and petty thefts similarly at nearly 32 percent. These

by Brian Day





figures represent a decrease in crimes over 2017 stats, meaning a 23 percent decrease in residential burglaries and 13 percent in petty and grand thefts.

But there's good and bad news for 2019. Stats for January 2019 show an uptick in residential burglaries. However, the month of February showed a dramatic decrease of 75 percent in the same category. Fortunately, for that same period, (petty and grand) thefts are down over the prior year. The city is on track for a decrease in overall crime for the third year in a row.

Any burglary or theft trends worth mentioning to our readers?

We're seeing the removal of unbolted safes in residential burglaries. There are even reports of criminals walking down streets with large safes being loaded into getaway cars. Burglars are also gaining access into homes by smashing rear sliding doors. Try an ounce of prevention: Bolt safes to the floor or wall studs, and in the case of large glass surfaces like sliding doors, apply safety and security window film to the glass. While these measures won't prevent break-ins, they will deter thefts by making entry more difficult.

Another recent trend worth noting: robberies in which victims are targeted while visiting banks. In some cases, people are robbed in the parking lot; in others, thieves follow them to their next stop and either rob them or break into their vehicle. Look for suspicious people near the ATM and never show a bank bag, envelope or carrying case. If you think you're being followed, call 911 before you reach your next stop, or drive directly to your local sheriff's or police station.

Finish this thought: The dumbest criminal I ever arrested was...

One case comes to mind. When serving a search warrant, a suspect's girlfriend was on the phone warning him the house was being raided and to stay away. We finished seizing evidence and went to a nearby fast-food restaurant to debrief. Despite the fact several deputy sheriffs were standing in the parking lot, the suspect pulled into the drive-through right in front of us. Another vehicle came behind, trapping the suspect in the drive-through. We arrested him on the spot. In his defense, the fast food restaurant makes really great food—but in my opinion, still not worth going to jail over.



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