



Rosemead Report

An Organization Working to Develop the Community Through the Promotion of its Businesses

3953 Muscatel Avenue, Rosemead, CA 91770 • (626) 288-0811 • news@rosemeadchamber.org • www.rosemeadchamber.org

Upcoming Events

Easter Egg-Stravaganza

Mar. 31, 2018
10:00am-1:00pm

Garvey Park
7933 Emerson Pl., Rosemead, CA
91770

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Easter Sunday Brunch at Double Tree by Hilton

Apr. 1, 2018
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Double Tree by Hilton
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Rosemead Chamber of Commerce 2018 Lunar New Year Gala

By Chris Ventura

The Rosemead Chamber of Commerce held its 16th Annual Lunar New Year Gala on Thursday night, March 1 at 888 Seafood Restaurant. The restaurant was filled with the spirit of celebration as the Chamber, celebrating 91 years of service to Rosemead, ushered in the Year of the Dog.

The date of Chinese New Year is based upon the phases of the moon. It is a time for renewal—sweeping away the old and making room for growth and prosperity in the new year. The date changes yearly and falls between January 21 and February 20. Each year is represented by one animal from a repeating pattern of 12. This year, it fell on February 16, marking the current year as the Year of the Dog.

One of the celebratory traditions for Chinese New Year is a giant reunion feast with family. As the Chamber, its members, and associates are like a family, the Annual New Year Gala represents that particular tradition.

Chamber President Paul Chen kicked off the gala by taking the stage to welcome all in attendance. Chen wished them all good prosperity and good health in the new year. Chen then acknowledged the Chamber's Board of Directors and welcomed them to the stage for a group photo opportunity.

Special attendees noted in Chen's opening remarks included Congresswoman Judy Chu (27th District), Rosemead City Mayor Polly Low, and Rosemead's new City Manager Gloria Molleda. Also in attendance was the Director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office of Los Angeles (TECO), Tony Ong.

Following Paul Chen's opening remarks, Congresswoman Judy Chu addressed attendees.

"How wonderful it is to meet with the Rosemead Chamber of Commerce," Congresswoman Judy Chu said. "The Rosemead Chamber has done so much and has helped the City of Rosemead reshape their infrastructure for city development projects, had input in zoning regulations, helped establish a post office back into the

city...so this is an incredible Chamber of Commerce that is very, very active."

Congresswoman Chu noted her annual invite and attendance at the Legislative Update Luncheon which provides her the opportunity to interact with Chamber members. She thanked the Chamber for the regular stream of workshops for businesses such as those dedicated to workplace safety, business insurance, professional development, and taxes and credits. She also thanked the Chamber in their ongoing charity work, noting the annual toy and food drives.

During her speech, the Congresswoman singled out Chamber Executive Director Ray Jan and thanked her for her continued hard work in making the Chamber the success that it is.

Congresswoman Chu followed up her thank you to Ray Jan with a special announcement.

"Because she's done an outstanding job for the Chamber, I made her my Congressional Woman of the Year for Rosemead," Congresswoman Chu proclaimed. "I tell you, I see [Ray Jan] everywhere. She volunteers for so many different things. She just really has a heart of gold, but also she puts her activities where her heart is."

The Congresswoman wrapped up her speech by thanking the City of Rosemead for putting on this yearly celebration and the Chamber for their hard work that benefits local businesses and the entire community. Congresswoman Chu then presented the Chamber with a Certificate of Congressional Recognition for the Lunar New Year Gala banquet.

Following the certificate presentation and acceptance by Chamber President Paul Chen, TECO Director Tony Ong was invited to the stage to say a few words.

This is such a wonderful and prestigious Chamber of Commerce in Los Angeles. It is the best in the San Gabriel Valley," Ong said. "They've done such a good job in the past 90 years and recently, I can see every year it's getting better and better."

Ong noted the diverse demographic of city residents and mentioned his discussion with Chamber president Chen about

a potential community festival in the near future.

Assemblymember Ed Chau (49th assembly district) was unable to attend the event and was represented by Chau's Senior Field Representative Henry Lo.

Lo greeted attendees and shared the warm greetings on behalf of the Assemblymember. He also thanked the Chamber on their ongoing work.

Lo noted the various workshops and numerous events throughout the year such as tonight's event which are not only helpful fundraisers for the Chamber, but also a means of socializing and networking among guests, local business owners, local politicians, and elected officials—also raising the awareness of the Chamber and all that they do.

"You see the difference when you have an active Chamber," Lo said. "...From the businesses that are coming to Rosemead Place, to the development of new housing along Garvey Avenue, to the visible interest to invest in this city."

Lo said that Assemblymember Ed Chau's office has specifically chosen Rosemead as the location to host many local community events because of the efforts and accomplishments of the Chamber. Lo then awarded the Chamber with a Certificate of Recognition on Assemblymember Ed Chau's behalf.

In attendance, on behalf of Supervisor Hilda Solis, was Field Deputy Jimmy Tang.

"There was a report published not too long ago by Asian Americans Advancing Justice saying that The San Gabriel Valley has one of the highest Asian American populations in the country and you can bet the City of Rosemead makes up a big part of that demographic," Tang said. "So, I really just want to convey that it's important that we celebrate the diversity of our area with events like this, and preserving cultural heritage, such as Lunar New Year."

Tang then presented the Chamber with a Certificate of Recognition from Supervisor Hilda Solis' office.

LUNAR, continue on page 4

CITY OF ROSEMEAD



Rosemead Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors 2017-2018

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Rosemead Report

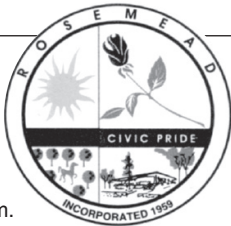
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Ray Jan Editor-in-Chief
Patrick Mao Graphic Design

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Rosemead Chamber of Commerce is to serve as the catalyst for a prosperous business environment and contribute to the quality of life in the City of Rosemead and the San Gabriel Valley.

Community Press Releases & Photos Accepted

The Rosemead Report is not funded by taxpayers' money.



City of Rosemead

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8838 E. Valley Boulevard
Rosemead, CA 91770
Phone: (626) 569-2100
Hours - Mon-Thu: 7a.m. - 6 p.m.
Fri - Sun: Closed
Website: www.cityofrosemead.org

City Council
Mayor: Polly Low
Mayor Pro Tem: Steven Ly
Council Members: Sandra Armenta,Bill Alarcon, Margaret Clark

City Council Meetings
2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.
City Hall

City Staff
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Finance Director: Pearl Lieu
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Director of Public Works: Michelle Ramirez

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Commissioner: Roderick Ornelas
Commissioner: Edward Quintanilla

Library
City Librarian: Sue Yamamoto
8800 E. Valley Boulevard
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Rosemead Community Center
3936 Muscatel Avenue
(626) 569-2251

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Public Safety Center
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Chris Lo
Director, Los Angeles
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Perry Wong
Managing Director, Research
The Milken Institute

More notable speakers to be announced.

Rosemead Report Deadline 15th of Each Month

E-mail is preferred: news@rosemeadchamber.org

Please submit your press releases, news articles, photos, and ad before the 15th of each month to be published the following month. Our staff has been working diligently to arrange earlier delivery of your monthly newspaper so it arrives at the beginning of the month. Therefore, we must have your information by the 15th of the preceding month to make it possible. Stories submitted must be in Microsoft Word or plain text format and photos in a JPEG format. Stories cannot exceed 400 words. If you have any questions, please call (626) 288-0811.

PUBLIC POLICY



Assemblymember Chau Unveils 2018 Legislative Agenda

MONTEREY PARK – Assemblymember Ed Chau (D–Monterey Park) unveiled his 2018 legislative bill package, which focuses on the important work he will be doing in the areas of privacy and consumer protection, child protection, and public safety.

Privacy and Consumer Protection

Assembly Bill (AB) 375 would ensure that consumers enjoy choice and transparency in the treatment of their personal information when accessing the internet by requiring an Internet Service Provider to get opt-in consent from consumers in order to use, disclose or permit access to sensitive customer personal information for reasons other than providing the service. It also prohibits providers from charging a penalty, offering a discount, or refusing to provide service, based on the consumer’s consent decision.

“Last year, Congress and the Trump administration repealed rules that gave broadband Internet customers control over their personal information,” said Assemblymember Chau. “This bill helps restore those protections and puts California consumers back in the driver’s seat to make their own privacy decisions.”

AB 1859 would require Consumer Credit Reporting Agencies to protect consumer information by patching vulnerable computer systems within ten days or be subject to civil penalties awarded to individuals whose data was compromised.

“The Equifax data breach was an extremely disruptive event in the lives of over 145 million Americans, and it was the result of a failure to update vulnerable computer systems,” said Assemblymember Chau. “This bill updates our law to address negligently lax behavior by credit reporting agencies when it comes to safeguarding their systems against cybersecurity threats.”

AB 1999 would expand existing authority for municipal and public utility districts to develop public broadband services to community service districts, and require those entities to adhere to “net neutrality rules” when providing such services.

“The recent action by the Federal Communications Commission to repeal net neutrality rules has rekindled the idea that local governments ought to play a more active role in building out locally-owned broadband networks,” said Assemblymember Chau. “As locally-owned broadband networks become an alternative for consumers, the State should uphold the tenets of an open Internet by requiring adherence to the core principles of net neutrality.”

Child Protection

AB 2511 would outlaw fine print, boilerplate terms and conditions language on social media websites and applications that presume children obtain parental consent to having their images and names used in marketing.

“Expecting children to read these legalistic terms and conditions, understand them, and then say that mom and dad have agreed to abide by them stretches consent beyond credibility, and it appears to be a secret tool for a business to market products to other children,” said Assemblymember Ed Chau. “My bill simply and modestly says that this kind of term and condition where children consent on behalf of their parents is illegal.”

AB 2662 would establish a program, under the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, to study the role and addictive impact of electronic media on the cognitive, social, and behavioral development of children.

“Technology has become such an integral part of our everyday lives, but we don’t really know what impacts the addictive use of smartphones, tablets and computers, to access content, has on our children’s psychology and development,” said Assemblymember Chau. “Establishing a program to study the benefits and costs of electronic media can better inform policy decisions related to the use of technology.”

Public Safety

AB 2058 would require law enforcement agencies to send data to the Department of Motor Vehicles on the number of arrests made for driving under the influence of cannabis.

“The legalization of cannabis will undoubtedly contribute to the rise of impaired driving,” said Assemblymember Chau. “Establishing a uniform mechanism to evaluate cannabis drugged driving arrests will inform what policies are needed to address this dangerous behavior.”

AB 3011 would allow distinct, but related incidents of theft, whether committed against one or more victims, to be aggregated to a charge of grand theft.

“Communities throughout the district have experienced an increase in crime, since the passage of Propositions 47 and 57,” said Assemblymember Chau. “The unintended consequences of these recent reforms could be addressed by allowing multiple incidents of theft to be aggregated into a charge of grand theft in order to prevent criminals from getting away with committing more frequent, smaller crimes.”

Assemblymember Chau was joined at the press conference by Ed Howard, Senior Counsel to the Children’s Advocacy Institute, and Dr. Irella Perez of Common Sense Kids Action.

CA Controller Reports 2018 State Revenues Behind February Estimates, Ahead for Fiscal Year

SACRAMENTO—California’s total revenues of \$6.51 billion for February were slightly lower than estimates in the governor’s 2018-19 proposed budget by 6.3 percent, and under 2017-18 Budget Act projections by 8.7 percent, State Controller Betty T. Yee reported today.

For the fiscal year overall, the “big three” sources of General Fund revenue, personal income tax (PIT), retail sales and use tax, and corporation tax, are beating estimates in the enacted budget. For the first eight months of the 2017-18 fiscal year, total revenues of \$81.07 billion are 3.1 percent higher than expected in the January budget proposal, 6.0 percent above the enacted budget’s assumptions, and 10.6 percent higher than the same period in 2016-17.

For February, PIT receipts of \$2.99 billion were 14.4 percent below the proposed budget’s projections. The decrease of \$505 million in February’s PIT revenues is due to the net impact of lower receipts and higher refunds, which were \$293 million above estimates in the governor’s proposed budget. For the fiscal year, PIT receipts are higher than anticipated in the 2017-18 Budget Act by \$2.92 billion.

Corporation taxes for February of \$164.3 million were 23.1 percent higher than expected in the proposed budget. For the fiscal year to date, total corporation tax receipts are 28.1 percent above assumptions in the 2017-18 Budget Act.

Sales tax receipts of \$3.24 billion for February were \$22.6 million higher than anticipated in the governor’s budget proposal unveiled in January. For the fiscal year, sales tax receipts are \$421.6 million higher than the enacted budget’s expectations.

Unused borrowable resources through February exceeded revised projections by 28.3 percent. Outstanding loans of \$9.72 billion were 27.9 percent less than the 2018-19 proposed budget assumed the state would need by the end of February. The loans were financed entirely by borrowing from internal state funds.



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Chen & Fan Accountancy wishes everyone in the City of Rosemead a happy and prosperous New Year of the Dog, and we thank the Rosemead Chamber of Commerce for its continued services to enhance and promote business and entrepreneurship within the community.

Our Accounting firm has been established since 1972 to provide professional services to U.S. businesses, many of which with strong Asia Pacific ties. The firm has three offices throughout California and scores of professional staff dedicated to providing quality accounting, auditing, taxation, and financial consulting services. Our professionals have extensive background, knowledge, and experience in the field of accountancy and taxation and take pride in providing timely and cost-effective services that meet the needs of our clients in various industries, including manufacturers, distributors, financial institutions, technology research, and multinational corporations.

We are proud to be a supporting member of the Rosemead Community.



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FRANCISCO ORELLANA
VP / BRANCH MANAGER



New Member Showcase



James Chen, State Farm Insurance Agent

I grew up in the city of El Monte and attended the local high school Arroyo Knights. I graduated from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Science in Business Admin in 2000 and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics in 2001. Fight on! I am an El Monte Chamber of Commerce Ambassador and I currently serve as the President of El Monte Kiwanis Club. I am also a Rosemead Chamber of Commerce member, San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce member, Habitat for Humanity Sponsor and Volunteer, Relay for Life Sponsor and Volunteer.

Our James Chen State Farm office is driven by the customer and is focused on customer satisfaction. We strive to be recognized as the industry innovator and leader. We're also here to assist. Katherine Lee speaks Mandarin. Cindy Dang speaks Cantonese. Benjamin Casas speaks Spanish. Annie Ung speaks Khmer.

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EDUCATION



Dear Rosemead Community and Friends,

Congratulations Emma W. Shuey Elementary School for Receiving a Silver Medal during Science Olympiad



On February 24, 2018, 15 fourth through sixth grade students from Emma W. Shuey Elementary School competed in the 32nd Annual Science Olympiad at Occidental College. Led by teachers Cami Case and Evonne Dotson, Shuey students earned a silver medal after competing in a number of different events. The events emphasized a wide variety of different skills and abilities. Students met once a week to prepare for the competition. Students built a car made out of pasta which had to hold a ping pong “meatball” and roll straight distances down a steep ramp. Other students studied earth science including reading weather maps. Students also studied food webs using owl pellets. Students built rubber band and tennis ball catapults and containers that would allow an egg to be dropped from a two-story building without breaking. Some events required students to problem solve on the spot. For example, in Mystery Architecture, students were given a bag of random objects such as cotton balls, toothpicks, gumdrops, paper cups and were required to build the tallest structure they could which would hold a tennis ball at the top in a set amount of time. We are very proud of the Shuey Science Olympiad team for their hard work and dedication to science!

Congratulations Savannah Elementary School for Receiving a Silver Medal during Science Olympiad

On February 24th, Savannah Elementary won silver medals at the Los Angeles County Science Olympiad competition at Occidental college (just five points shy of a gold medal win). A team of 15 young scientists and engineers in grades 4-6 scored an amazing 545 points competing against schools from all over Los Angeles County.

Building cars out of pasta, experimenting with pill bug dietary preferences, and designing a catapult to launch a tennis ball at a given target, our Science Olympians excelled at 20 different events. Please join Coach Jennifer Nakata and Principal Ruth Soto as we congratulate our phenomenal team on their success.



Pictured (left to right): Front Row: Sharlene Hua and Justin Ly; 2nd Row: Julie Thein, Eric Nguyen, Chris Yu, Tom Tong, Kayla Ly, Kathleen Tran, Ashley Ngo, and Jessica Hang; 3rd Row: Ethan Nguyen, Christina Huynh, Bennet Carias, Jimmy Pham, Hannah Urquidi; Back Row: Teacher Jennifer Kelley and Principal Ruth Soto

Congratulations to The Panda Restaurant Group on the Unveil of their “LOVE” Sculpture and a Special “THANK YOU” to Owner and Founder Mr. Andrew Cherng and Mrs. Peggy Cherng for their Continued Support of the Rosemead School District Students



Earlier this month The Panda Restaurant Group unveiled their “LOVE” Sculpture at the Panda corporate headquarters in Rosemead, California.

The Rosemead School District would like congratulate The Panda Restaurant Group on their beautiful sculpture and Thank You for the continued support of all students.

Thank you to all the Volunteers for their Participation in the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Event at Mildred B. Janson Elementary School

The Rosemead School District and Mildred B. Janson Elementary School Students and Staff thanked all the Volunteers for the participation during their annual Reading is Fundamental (RIF) event.

Annually Principal Mr. Gabriel Cardenas brings together a few volunteers made up of parents, staff, and community members. Over the years, the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) event has grown with additional volunteers giving their time to read for students.

On behalf of Principal Cardenas, thank you so much for spending part of your extremely busy day to stop by and read to our student leaders. We really appreciate your partnership and commitment to student achievement. The students shared back with me and mentioned that the readers were “awesome”. Thank you again!



Pictured (left to right): Mr. Carlos Perez, Superintendent Amy Enomoto-Perez, Ed.D., Mr. Ricky Ferrer, Mrs. Katy Huang, Mrs. Fabiola Betancourt, Board Trustee Mrs. Veronica Peña, Director Mrs. Dawn Rock, Mr. Rick Gomez, Assistant Superintendent Armida Carreon, Ed.D., and Mr. Peter Peña.

On behalf of the Rosemead School District and Mildred B. Janson Elementary School students, thank you to all our volunteers who made this event possible and the staff that organized the event.

Congratulations Emma W. Shuey Elementary School and Encinita Elementary School for their Recognition by Franklin Covey for its Achievements as a 2017 Leader in Me Lighthouse School of Academic Distinction for Showing Exemplary Academic Growth

The Rosemead School District Administration and Board of Trustees congratulate Emma W. Shuey Elementary School and Encinita Elementary School for their recognition as a 2017 Leader in Me Lighthouse School of Academic Distinction for showing Exemplary Academic Growth.

This distinction and recognition is due to Encinita’s percentile ranking rose in 2017 to 62.6, showing exemplary academic growth.



This distinction and recognition is due to Shuey’s percentile ranking rose in 2017 to 86.7, showing exemplary academic growth.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Administration, congratulations and we are very proud of all of your accomplishments.

IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS:

For more information on any event listed below, please visit the Rosemead School District website at www.rosemead.k12.ca.us.

March 2018:

- Thurs., Mar. 29 – Janson Leadership Day 8:30 a.m.
- Thurs., Mar. 29 – Board of Trustees’ Special Meeting

April 2018:

- Mon., Apr. 2 – Fri., Apr. 6 – Spring Break (No School)
- Mon., Apr. 9 – School Reopens – Students Return
- Thurs., Apr. 19 – Board of Trustees’ Regular Meeting
- Wed., Apr. 25 – Muscatel Open House 5:00 p.m. / Leadership Day
- Mon., Apr. 30 – Professional Development / Student Free Day (No School)

 Rosemead Library 8800 Valley Blvd. Rosemead, CA 91770 626-573-5220 colapublib.org follow LA County Library 	<div>Ask us about our Read Across America event which runs from February 20-March 20</div> <div>March 2018</div> <div>Reading Buddies For ages 4-7 Saturdays, 12-1 PM Build confidence & your vocabulary by reading to a "buddy."</div>						
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Baby-Toddler Storytime & Play & Explore (ages 0-3) 10 AM-12 PM				1 Citizenship Class (adults) *Sign up required 10 AM-12 PM	2 Baby-Toddler Storytime & Play & Explore (ages 0-3) 11 AM-12 PM	3 Stem for Kids: Fun With Ooze (ages 5-12) 12:30-2 PM
	4	5	6	7 Drop-in Baby-Toddler Storytime & Play & Explore (ages 0-3) 11 AM-12 PM	8 Citizenship Class (adults) *Sign up required 10 AM-12 PM	9 Baby-Toddler Storytime & Play & Explore (ages 0-3) 11 AM-12 PM	10 Financial Aid for College (ages 18-17) 12-1 PM
	11	12	13 Citizenship Class (adults) *Sign up required 1-3 PM	14 Drop-in Baby-Toddler Storytime & Play & Explore (ages 0-3) 11 AM-12 PM	15 Citizenship Class (adults) *Sign up required 10 AM-12 PM	16 Baby-Toddler Storytime & Play & Explore (ages 0-3) 11 AM-12 PM	17 Asian Pacific American Center Author Talk: Bernice Reilly (ages 10+) 2 PM
February 2018	18	19	20 Citizenship Class (adults) *Sign up required 1-3 PM	21 Asian Pacific Resource Center Book Club (ages 18+) 6:30 PM	22 Citizenship Class (adults) *Sign up required 10 AM-12 PM	23 Teen Book Club (ages 14-17) 5-6 PM	24 San Gabriel High School Acapella Choir (all ages) 1-2 PM
	25	26	27 Citizenship Class (adults) *Sign up required 1-3 PM	28	29 Citizenship Class (adults) *Sign up required 10 AM-12 PM	30	31 Vietnamese Street Food Cooking Demo (ages 18+) 2-3 PM



COMMERCE

How to Recognize and Respond to a Natural Gas Leak



Look

If you see:

- A damaged connection to a natural gas appliance
- Dirt, water or debris being blown into the air
- A dry patch of grass in your yard (in an otherwise moist area)
- A fire or explosion near a pipeline
- Exposed pipeline after an earthquake, fire, flood or other disaster



Listen

- If you hear an unusual sound, such as a hissing, whistling or roaring, near a natural gas line or appliance.



Smell

- If you smell the distinctive odor of natural gas, often described as a sulfur-like odor.
- Note: some people may not be able to smell the odor for a number of reasons (see below).

Don't Rely on Just Your Nose

Although a distinctive odor is added to make natural gas easy to recognize, you may not be able to smell leaking gas if:

- You have a diminished sense of smell
- You're experiencing odor fatigue (normal, temporary inability to distinguish an odor after prolonged exposure to it)
- You have a physical condition such as a common cold, sinus condition or allergies
- You use tobacco, alcohol, drugs and certain medications
- The odor is masked or hidden by other odors that are present
- Pipe and soil conditions have caused odor fade (see below)

Odor Fade

Sometimes physical and/or chemical processes can cause a loss of odorant in natural gas, making it undetectable by smell. Odor fade can be caused by adsorption, absorption, oxidation or any combination thereof.

Odor fade is more likely to occur in the following situations:

- In new, steel pipe that has been recently manufactured or hasn't been used for odorized natural gas before
- In natural gas piping systems using higher gas pressure, and when natural gas flow is limited or intermittent
- In the presence of rust, mill scale, moisture, air, cutting oil, pipe thread compound, liquids, condensates and other substances

Because of the possibility of odor fade, it's important to not rely only on your sense of smell to be alerted to a natural gas leak.

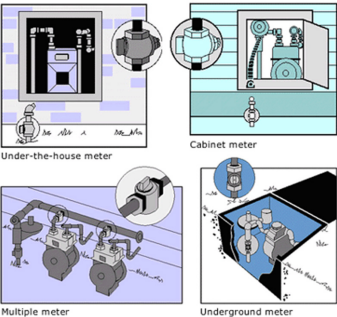
For a printable copy about odor fade and safe purging practices, see our Safety Bulletin. If you have additional questions or concerns regarding pipe conditioning or odor fade, call us at 1-800-427-2200 or contact a licensed, qualified professional.

What to Do if You Suspect a Natural Gas Leak

If you smell a natural gas odor, hear the hissing sound of gas escaping or see other signs of a leak:

- IMMEDIATELY EVACUATE the area, and from a safe location either call 911 or SoCalGas at 1-800-427-2200
- DON'T smoke, or light a match, candle or other flame.
- DON'T turn electrical appliances or lights on or off, operate motorized equipment or vehicles, or use any device that could cause a spark.

Learn how to locate and shut off your natural gas meter in case of an emergency.



Step 1: Locate Your Natural Gas Meter

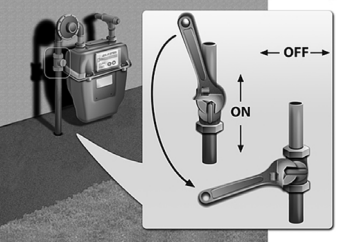
It's important to know exactly where your natural gas meter is so you can find it in case of an emergency. The following diagram shows four possible natural gas meter locations:

Diagram A

NOTE: DO NOT turn off your meter unless you smell natural gas, hear the sound of gas escaping or see other signs of a leak--and ONLY if it's safe to do so. For more information, learn how to recognize and respond to a natural gas leak.

Step 2: Find the Natural Gas Shut-off Valve

As you face the meter, you'll see a pipe running from the ground to the meter. There is a shut-off valve running parallel with the pipe, usually located about 6 to 8 inches above the ground. Take a 12-inch or larger adjustable wrench, and turn the valve 1/4 turn in either direction, until the valve is crosswise to the pipe. (See Diagram B)



TIP: Keep a 12-inch or larger adjustable wrench with your emergency supplies, or next to your valve. Do not store the wrench on the meter or other natural gas piping or related equipment.

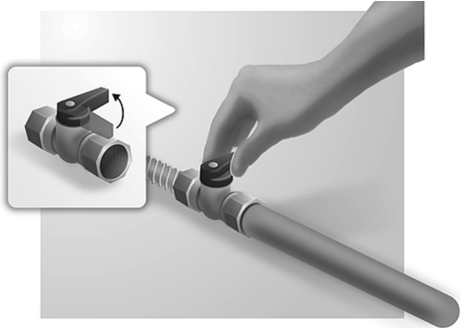
Diagram B

CAUTION: If you turn off your natural gas at the

meter, leave it off. Do not turn it back on yourself. Contact us to turn the meter back on and relight the pilots.

Natural Gas Shut-off Valves

For safety, a shut-off valve should be installed at every natural gas appliance. If a leak happens at a specific appliance, the valve allows you to turn off the natural gas at the appliance rather than shutting off all of your natural gas service. Some valves require a wrench to turn them.



Electric Bonding or Grounding

Do not use SoCalGas® natural gas meter, natural gas piping, natural gas risers or related equipment for electrical bonding or grounding because it's not safe or permitted. Use caution when touching natural gas meters, risers, valves and attached components. Faulty household appliances or faulty household electrical wiring could inadvertently introduce electricity to natural gas facilities that can cause an electric shock.

When Is A Good Time To Start Receiving Social Security Benefits?

After a lifetime of working, you deserve a comfortable retirement. For over 80 years, Social Security has been helping people shape their future, assisting them with a variety of benefits. It's up to you as to when you can start retirement benefits. You could start them a little earlier or wait until your "full retirement age," or delay retirement to get extra money each month. There are benefits to either decision.

Full retirement age refers to the age when a person can receive their Social Security benefits without any reduction, even if they are still working part or full time. In other words, you don't actually need to stop working to get your full benefits.

For people who reach age 62 in 2018 (i.e., those born between January 2, 1956 and January 1, 1957), full retirement age is 66 and four months. Full retirement age was age 65 for many years. However, due to a law passed by Congress in 1983, it has been gradually increasing, beginning with people born in 1938 or later, until it reaches 67 for everybody born after 1959.

You can learn more about the full retirement age and find out how to look up your own at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/retirechart.html>.

You can start receiving Social Security benefits as early as age 62 or any time after that. The longer you wait, the higher your monthly benefit will be, although it stops increasing at age 70. Your monthly benefits will be reduced permanently if you start them any time before your full retirement age. For example, if you start receiving benefits in 2018 at age 62, your monthly benefit amount will be reduced permanently by nearly 27 percent.

On the other hand, if you wait to start receiving your benefits until after your full retirement age, then your monthly benefit will be higher. The amount of this increase is two-thirds of one percent for each month — or eight percent for each year — that you delay receiving them until you reach age 70. The choices you make may affect any benefit your spouse or children can receive on your record, too. If you receive benefits early, it may reduce their potential benefit, as well as yours.

You need to be as informed as possible when making any decision about receiving Social Security benefits. Read the publication When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10147.pdf>.

When to start receiving retirement benefits is a personal decision based on your own situation. Check out our Retirement Checklist at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10377.pdf> to learn about additional factors to consider as you think about when to start receiving your retirement benefits.

If you decide to receive benefits before you reach full retirement age, you should also understand how continuing to work can affect your benefits. Social Security may withhold or reduce your benefits if your annual earnings exceed a certain amount. However, for every month benefits are withheld, it may increase your future benefits. That's because at your full retirement age Social Security will recalculate your benefit amount to give you credit for the months in which benefits were reduced or withheld due to your excess earnings. You can learn more at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/whileworking.html>.

Social Security's mission is to secure your today and tomorrow. You can learn more by visiting our Retirement Planner at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire>.

CHAMBER



Thanks to the following sponsors for their generosity and commitment to supporting the local business community at the Rosemead Chamber of Commerce 16th Annual Lunar New Year Banquet:

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