

THE VIBE

VOL 4 ISSUE 2 . 2020

YOUR
GUIDE TO
MODERN
LIVING IN
THE SOUTH

Be the Light

Filinvest City sparkles as it explores endless possibilities of bringing hope and joy to the community this holiday season





FILINVEST CITY

BE THE
Light

Explore endless possibilities
and inspire one another
this Christmas!



Scan to join Filinvest City's
Viber Community
for the latest updates.



FilinvestCityOfficial

MESSAGE FROM THE VIBE TEAM

Christmas is all about giving and loving. Every year, we gather around family and friends to celebrate the festive season. While the revelries have now shifted online due to the pandemic, the true essence of Christmas remains.

In Filinvest City, Christmas is as bright as ever. We have specifically made sure that love, hope, warmth, and joy would be felt through the decorative displays scattered around the township.

We have also searched for the most inspiring stories of modern-day heroes who have given a whole new meaning to the term 'frontliner.' These people rose up to the challenge and

proved that no matter the circumstances, we can always—as our theme suggests—be the light.

Christmas may be a bit different this year, but it shouldn't stop us from sharing wonderful experiences with fellow Filinvest Cityzens. Amidst all the challenges that we collectively go through, Filinvest City continues to be a thriving township, ever-ready to serve you in these fast-changing times.

Merry Christmas and cheers to a hopefully better normal in 2021!

Stay safe and healthy.

The Vibe Team



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FILINVEST CITY
Inspiring Possibilities

FILINVESTCITY.COM

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WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Share with us your comments and suggestions for our upcoming issue.
Send us a message on Facebook @FilinvestCityOFFICIAL
Join Filinvest City's Viber Community by scanning this QR code:





AT A GLANCE

Glistening fairy lights lining the streets, Christmas trees all adorned with festive ornaments, and cheerful carols filling the shopping malls—it's a familiar scene throughout the country once the 'ber' months start rolling in. However, 2020 won't be your typical Christmas season.

People from nearby cities come together with their loved ones and bask in the joyous spirit of Christmas to create special memories in the Garden City of the South during the holiday season. With the pandemic still looming over our heads, this year's celebrations won't be as grand and festive. But it can still be meaningful. Filinvest City reminds us that it's not the decor, gift-giving, and music that make Christmas special but rather, it's you and the people around you.

This special holiday issue of **The Vibe** would like to share stories of joy and inspiration for everyone to give hope that better things will come for the new year.

Find out how social media influencer and vlogger Camille Co took this pandemic as a challenge to find new inspirations for her craft, as well as how businesses like Da Gianni Cucina Italiana continues to thrive and serve their loyal patrons with delicious food.

Let the delectable finds in the city from restaurants like Akrotiri, A-Won, and Sugar Shack be part of your holiday celebrations. Supporting these local businesses will surely be a big help during these uncertain times.

Be inspired by Arnel Pastor's story at the frontlines as an office security guard and one of the featured modern-day heroes in Filinvest City's "The Search" online video-making contest. Equally inspiring and heartwarming are the Christmas wishes and messages of hope from the children of the Metro South community.

Lastly, get updates from Filinvest City's efforts to fight COVID-19. The township has broadened its philanthropic reach to cater to the needs of not only its people but also the country.

Through its "Be the Light" campaign, Filinvest City aims to make the holiday season fun, memorable, and meaningful. Despite the unprecedented times, there are still a lot of things to celebrate and be thankful for.

FILINVEST CITY TOWNSHIP UPDATES

FILINVEST CITY THRIVES IN THE NEW NORMAL

With the number and caliber of awards it reaped this year, Filinvest City proves that it is a future-ready CBD-allowing residents to live, work, and play to the fullest.



LEED GOLD CERTIFICATION

US Green Building
Council

Filinvest City is the first CBD in the country to receive a LEED gold certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design LEED v4 Gold for Neighborhood Development) from the US Green Building Council. The award recognizes Filinvest City as a sustainable township, citing the community's long-standing effort to go green by conserving water and energy, reducing waste and greenhouse gas emissions, and lowering operating costs, among others.



BEST MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

Asia Pacific Property
Awards

Filinvest City was also hailed as Best Mixed-Use Development at the 2020 Asia Pacific Property Awards (APPA). APPA is the largest and most prestigious award-giving body in the world, judged by an independent panel of over 80 industry experts based on design, quality, service, innovation, originality, and commitment to sustainability.



SILVER MEDAL, MOST BIKE-FRIENDLY WORKPLACE Mobility Awards

Filinvest City likewise bagged the Silver Medal in the 2020 Mobility Awards for Most Bike-friendly Workplace. The township prides itself on a master-planned community, built for a healthy, sustainable lifestyle, with bike lanes, expansive sidewalks, and parks scattered all around the CBD.



'A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY'

Vlogger and social media influencer

Camille Co on living life in the new normal

It's been months since the COVID-19 pandemic struck and changed our lives forever. While it may be argued that a lot of us has experienced cabin fever at some point during the quarantine, vlogger, fashion designer, and zealous traveler Camille Co—whose work largely depends on visuals and inspirations that come from the outside—took it as a challenge to create and inspire from her own little nook.

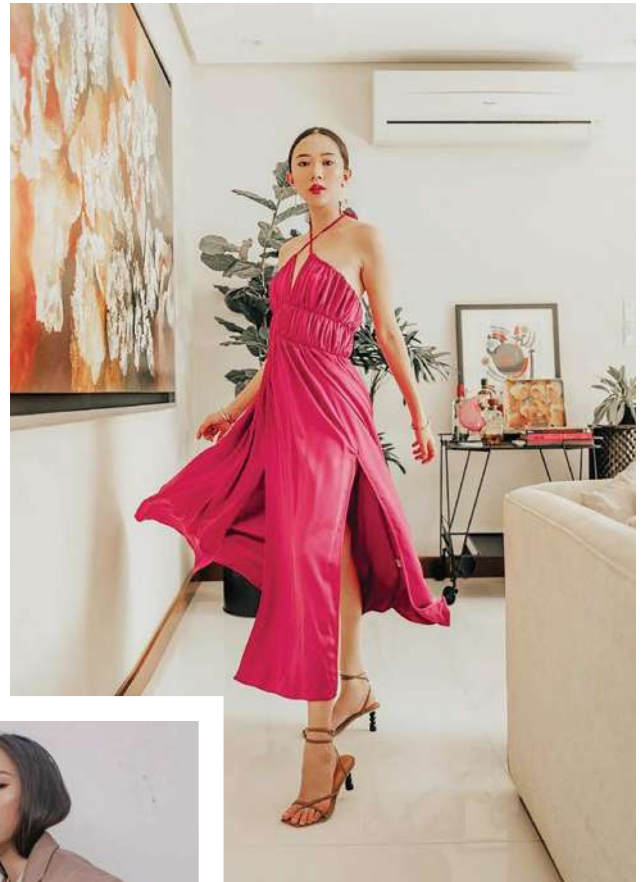
"It didn't happen like magic though. I had to refocus and regroup. I had to learn to let go of the pressure I put on myself to create like the way I did before. I had to listen to what my mind and body needed to keep me feeling inspired; so that in the end, I'm able to come up with relevant content that would make people smile," shares Co.

The 32-year-old social media influencer admits to even trying out TikTok, which became a hit during the peak of the quarantine. Stuck in the same environment for months, Co was "forced to see and capture things in a new light," eventually adjusting and coming to terms with the new normal. She has added roughly 30 different vlogs to her Youtube channel since March, tackling beauty, life, and love from the comforts of her home.

Sought for advice on the things she does best, Co says "a little goes a long way," and notes that, in her design and content creation process, she just lets her creative juices flow. "It all boils down to concept. Once I already have one, I work on it right away so I can still do other tasks for the rest of the week."

Ever busy as a bee, Co is currently building her dream house with entrepreneur husband Joni Koro. The expectant mother looks forward to spending the holidays with friends and family, saying it's the face-to-face interaction she misses the most.

"Life in quarantine has not been that easy, but living in the South has made it a little less stress-free. I love that I don't feel like I'm stuck in the city; so every now and then, I feel like my home is still a beautiful escape."



Photos from Camille's Instagram @itscamilleco

DA GIANNI CUCINA ITALIANA

THRIVING IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC

The food and beverage sector was among the many industries that were greatly affected by the pandemic. With this, restaurants like Da Gianni Cucina Italiana, located in Westgate Center and owned by Matteo Guidicelli and his family have had to pivot. “If there’s one thing we really had to improve these past months, it was our service,” Matteo says. “Without our dining, how can we deliver that same impression for takeouts or deliveries? We knew we had just one shot at doing things right. So, all actions and decisions were made with more intentionality. Our minds had to be here in the now.”

The group was quick to adapt to the challenge of the new normal. A few months ago, Da Gianni was able to secure its accreditation and is now certified to operate, abiding by the new safety standards for restaurants during the pandemic. Despite reduced operations, the restaurant is now thriving thanks to the supportive foodie community in the South.

“From the takeoff, we knew that location was very important,” Matteo shares. “We are all

from the south; we grew up here. Our friends are here; people who know us are here. So, there was a point when the battle cry of each community was to help the small businesses and we felt that.”

GET READY TO FEAST!

Today, you can still enjoy Da Gianni’s homemade pizzas, delicious kinds of pasta, and generous platters for sharing (perfect for Noche Buena feasts) with their more convenient and robust delivery service. For those looking for a different ambiance from home, the cozy restaurant welcomes new and regular diners, albeit at a limited capacity. Should you want a more private experience at home, Da Gianni also caters to small, intimate occasions.

A TASTE OF THE FAMILIAR

Aside from the well-loved classics, delight in the restaurant’s new favorites such as cauliflower-crusted pizza (you can customize your own toppings), plump and delicious ravioli and eggplant *Parmigiana*, and the new *Cotoletta di Pollo*. Each bite transports you to the lovely, sunny hills of Italy where it’s forever summer.



The Guidicelli family with friends at Da Gianni Cucina Italiana



Photos from Da Gianni's Facebook and Instagram accounts

For those seeking the perfect gift, Da Gianni also allows loyal patrons to customize Christmas baskets for loved ones. Choose from a wide array of wines, pastries, pasta sauces, cheeses, cold cuts, and more for a personal gift or corporate giveaway. These are the holiday treats that allow you to enjoy a complete Italian feast.

With gratitude in their hearts, Matteo and the Da Gianni team are ready to serve and deliver your wants for a truly festive feast this holiday season. Place your orders and reservations now. *Bon Appetit!*



Da Gianni Cucina Italiana Pasta Sauces



FROM A WONDERLAND OF LIGHTS ILLUMINATING THE CITY TO ONLINE INITIATIVES MEANT TO INSPIRE, THERE'S NO DOUBT WHY FILINVEST CITY IS THE SOUTH'S ULTIMATE HOLIDAY DESTINATION.

This year, Filinvest City's *Be the Light* campaign aims to inspire Filipinos that even in these unprecedented times, there's still hope and magic worth celebrating. Taking inspiration from the unsung heroes—our frontliners, healthcare people, and essential workers—we too, in our own ways, can be a vessel of light to others.





For the longest time, Filinvest City has successfully cemented itself as the go-to Christmas destination in the Metro South. Each year, the premier garden CBD transforms into a wonderland of merriment: roads are illuminated by lights, corporate buildings are dressed up in oversized baubles, and open spaces are dotted with holiday installations, bazaars, and concert stages.

While this year's festivities might take a different direction, Filinvest City ensures that there are still reasons to celebrate. If there's anything that 2020 has taught us, it is the importance of staying connected and nurturing relationships. The *Be the Light* campaign highlights just that. In a time of great uncertainty, we only have one another to rely on. To have someone who knows, understands, or shares your struggles helps in overcoming a difficult situation. In the same manner, you should also take it upon yourself to be of service to others.

CONTINUING THE TRADITION

For some, Christmas triggers a desire for escapism. You'll often hear about overcrowded airports and long ticket lines. But this year, people may finally be spending the holidays with their family and friends. With that, Filinvest City is back with its annual Christmas celebrations. While less extravagant, it makes up for it with meaning and purpose.

LIGHT IT UP

Of course, no festivities are complete without the decor. The city's signature date palms are adorned with lights illuminating the streets, along with themed installations on every corner. The icing on the cake is a 30-foot tall Christmas Tree that graces the center of the Spectrum Linear Park. The walkway leading up to the tree is lined with twinkling spotlights, as well as a festive archway that makes you feel like you're being transported to a Christmas wonderland.

All these are meant to provide a sense of hope and positivity. The lights should inspire the community to find the sparks within them.

"THE SEARCH"

To honor the heroic acts of those who are bravely fighting at the frontlines, Filinvest City launched "The Search," an online video-making contest.



This online contest encouraged participants to come up with a creative video featuring the city's frontliners as subject while using the song "Kaleidoscope World" by Francis Magalona.

CELEBRATE SAFELY

While quarantine restrictions may have eased over time, large gatherings are still heavily discouraged. So, to keep you and your loved ones safe this Christmas, Filinvest City has brought the celebrations to you.

Last December 10, Filinvest City held its Christmas Community Event through its official Facebook page @FilinvestCityOFFICIAL. Hosted by Sam YG, the virtual holiday affair saw performances from three of the best OPM bands in the country: Silent Sanctuary, Gracenote, and Sandwich. Viewers were treated to a medley of Christmas songs and the bands' own hits.

Winners of Filinvest City's "The Search" contest were also revealed during the event. The competition paid tribute to the sacrifices and continuous hard work of the township's frontliners.

Angela Pangilinan won first place with her feature of office security guard Arnel Pastor. Justin Sarmiento and Joy Matorre's homage to housekeeping personnel Christian Bantug and medical technologist Queency Reyes came in second and third, respectively.

This year's Christmas is a far cry from the usual, but Filinvest City wishes to keep its essence alive by bringing the community intact as always.

EATS

LOCKDOWN FINDS

COVID-19 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE HAVE DAMPENED OUR TRAVEL PLANS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON. BUT EVEN IF YOU CAN'T TRAVEL NOW, YOU CAN STILL ENJOY GREAT CUISINES AT THE FOODIE CAPITAL OF THE SOUTH, FILINVEST CITY.

AKROTIRI

Discover Real Greek Cuisine

Akrotiri brings the best of Greek cuisine with its authentic dishes that will keep you coming back for more. Savor their bestsellers like Gyros—seasoned chicken or pork with tomato onion salad, freshly made pitta bread and hand-cut fries—and *Kalamakia*, chunks of skewered pork, chicken, or beef with tomato, feta cheese, salad, and fries. The restaurant is a great choice if you are looking for that genuine Mediterranean taste. Akrotiri is also available for delivery via Lalafood and Foodpanda.

Location: Commercenter
(B2 Ground Floor)



SUGAR SHACK

Homemade Treats

Sweet treats always bring in the joy of the holiday season. Based in the South, Sugar Shack makes homemade treats with only the best ingredients. Place an order and send your loved ones a box of their famous cookies, cheese pimiento, and cheesy ube *pandesal*. They also offer freshly baked bagels that are soft and fluffy on the inside with the signature chewiness of authentic bagels. Their cinnamon rolls with cream cheese frosting melt in your mouth with just the right amount of sweetness. You can also order a customized cake from them by sending a message on Facebook and Instagram.

Location: Commissary at
Westgate Center

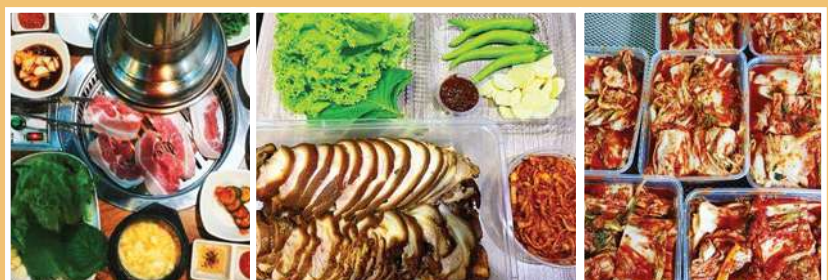


A-WON RESTAURANT

Bringing you Closer to Korea

Are you craving those mouthwatering Korean dishes while watching a *K-Drama*? A-Won Restaurant will surely satisfy your hunger with their flavorful spread of food. *Samgyeopsal* or grilled pork belly, together with *Sundubu Jjigae* (spicy soft tofu stew), definitely hit the spot. You also have to try their *bulgogi*, a classic Korean staple of grilled thinly sliced beef marinated in a sweet and savory sauce. *Jokbal* or braised pig's trotters are likewise available for pre-order. For the side dish, you shouldn't miss tasting their *Kimchi* made by the owner's grandmother.

Location: Commercenter (2nd Floor)



BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

In its search for the most inspiring frontliner stories, Filinvest City shines light on one of the township's silent heroes. Known to many as "Mang P," office security guard Arnel Pastor went beyond the call of duty to bring light to the company he has worked with for the past 22 years.



DEDICATED AND TRUSTWORTHY.

This is how Angela Pangilinan, described Mang P to **The Vibe**. Pangilinan was the person behind the winning entry in Filinvest City's "The Search," an online video-making contest that aimed to recognize the township's hardworking frontliners. Her feature of Mang P easily captured the hearts of many, having almost a thousand likes and shares as of writing.

"Iba man ang kanyang tungkulin na ginagampanan, sinasalubong din niya ang maraming panganib sa daan. 'Di man nakikita ng lahat, pero araw-araw siya nangangamba. Araw-araw siyang natatakot para sa kanyang sarili at para sa kanyang pamilya," Pangilinan says of the 58-year-old Mang P in the two-minute heartwarming video.

The humble security guard has tirelessly served his company since 1998, and even the pandemic didn't stop him from fulfilling his sworn duty. Every day, he would come to work as early as six in the morning—when the office is still dark and empty—and leave only after completing the required 12-hour shift. When public transportation was suspended at the height of the quarantine, Mang P walked from office to home and vice-versa. He was then the only person in his family who had a quarantine pass.

"That's the reason I chose him to be my featured frontliner. I've known Mang P to be a very hardworking person, pandemic or not, and I was deeply moved when I heard his story. He deserves to be recognized by everyone," explains Pangilinan.



In his decades of service, Mang P has touched the lives of thousands of people. Salutations to his winning story uploaded on Filinvest City's official Facebook page prove this.

"Magkahalong tuwa at kaba ang aking nararamdaman dahil hindi ko alam na nakakapagbigay inspirasyon pala ako sa iba. Isang karangalan po sa akin na mapasama sa hanay ng mga frontliners. Iba't iba man ang aming tungkulin, iisa lang ang aming layunin at iyon ay ang makatulong sa kapwa at sa bayan," shares Mang P.

With God's grace, the well-loved security guard will continue to be the light to his family, both at home, and at work. *"Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. Nawa'y manatili tayong matatag sa kabila ng mga hamon at pagsubok sa ating buhay."*

Little Voices

Young as they are, kids are proof that no matter the weight of our problems, we can always find hope and happiness in simple things. Here, they share their wishes for Christmas and the new year to come.



**ISABELLE
DELOS REYES**

I want to travel the world and be Wonder Woman so I can help fight the virus.



**RYESE AND
ZAREENA NUQUI**

Our wish is for the world to be COVID-free so we can go back to school and not just have online classes. We miss our classmates and teachers. We also miss going to the park to bike around.

**MATARLO SIBLINGS
(ALEX, HYORI,
AND BJORN)**

We wish for everyone to be happy and loved.

We'd like to go outside and play with friends already, so we hope the virus goes away immediately.



BRYLEE VIRAY

I want a hedgehog and I'd like to name him Amoas (among us).



ASHTON PERFECTO

I wish Jesus will always keep our family safe and that He will stop the virus so we can all go to the beach!

FILINVEST CITY FOUNDATION

UPDATES ON ITS COVID-19 EFFORTS



Construction is underway for the expansion of the Filinvest Tent as a mega quarantine facility



Singapore's Temasek Foundation turns over 400 bi-level pap machines to the Department of Health (DOH), shipment of which was shouldered by Filinvest City Foundation. Present during the turnover were (from left to right) Dr. Arthur Amansec and Dir. Maria Soledad Antonio of DOH, Filinvest City's Vice-President for Township Don Ubaldo, Ms. Zhou Suli and Mr. Huang Zhi of Singapore Embassy, and Asst. Project Development Manager Tracey San Pablo



Filinvest City Foundation and Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. team up to distribute packed meals for frontliners in Cebu

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the Philippines, Filinvest City Foundation doubles its efforts to fight the pandemic by providing medical relief and financial assistance to many communities and government units in the country.

AS OF NOVEMBER 18, 2020

 **P87.4M**

**DONATED TO SEVERAL
BENEFICIARIES COMPOSED OF:**



Health
Facilities



Government
Agencies




Local Government
Units (LGUs)



Private
Corporations

**TOTAL ESTIMATED
FOR DISBURSEMENT:**

 **P33.9M**

To this end, Filinvest City Foundation makes the community safer and secure, inspiring hope and unity as we come together to fight this pandemic.

FILINVEST ALABANG, INC. WINS STEVIE GOLD AND PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

Filinvest Alabang, Inc. (FAI) clinched the highly coveted Gold Stevie Award for Real Estate in the 17th International Business Awards (IBA).

The IBA is the world's premier business awards program honoring contributions of organizations and individuals across various industries.

Alongside the Gold Stevie, FAI also bagged the 2020 People's Choice Award for Favorite Companies, garnering the highest number of public votes and besting several other Stevie awardees.



FILINVEST CITY LOCATORS USHER IN THE HOLIDAYS

Two of Filinvest City's locators welcomed the holiday season with sparkles of hope.

Both Crimson Hotel and Festival Mall sent out messages of love and positivity as they lit up their own gigantic Christmas trees.

While Crimson Hotel had a virtual tree lighting ceremony, Festival Mall chose to do it on ground but still observing physical distancing.

In both settings, the audiences were treated to a medley of Christmas songs.



BRISTOL AT PARKWAY PLACE OPENS WEEKEND COMMUNITY MARKET

Weeks leading to the holidays, luxe high-rise condo Bristol at Parkway Place ran a festive weekend community market for all Filinvest Cityzens. The pop-up neighborhood bazaar featured up and coming homegrown artisans, offering a good mix of delectable eats, novelty items, and essential products—from fruits, to vegetables, to frozen and keto meals, to cute pajamas and jelly socks, among others.





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