

MCDONALD'S EXPANDS IN KAWIT WITH OPENING OF TIRONA HIGHWAY BRANCH



McDonald's Philippines officially marked the grand opening of its newest branch along Tirona Highway with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held early today at 6:00 a.m., welcoming customers and guests to the much-anticipated food destination.



Representatives of McDonald's Philippines, together with store management and employees, and was attended by Municipal Councilor Bong Dones Cajigas of Kawit, Cavite, to formally open the McDonald's Tirona Highway branch.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was officiated by representatives of McDonald's Philippines, together with store management and employees, and was attended by Municipal Councilor Bong Dones Cajigas of Kawit, Cavite, to formally open the McDonald's Tirona Highway branch.



McDonald's Philippines CEO and President Kenneth Yang engages with store management and crew during the opening-day walk-through of the newly opened McDonald's Tirona Highway branch.

McDonald's Philippines President and CEO Kenneth Yang was also present during the opening to personally show his support for the new Tirona Highway branch. He met with store management and crew and took part in opening-day activities, underscoring the company's commitment to operational excellence and community engagement.



To further mark the opening, McDonald's Tirona Highway rolled out a full day of opening-day promotions and family-friendly activities. Early customers enjoyed a free one-piece Chicken McDo coupon with any value meal purchase at 6:00 a.m., followed by a free medium fries coupon during the 7:00 a.m. drive-thru promo. Additional giveaways were offered throughout the day, including free apple pie, McFloat, and Burger McDo coupons with qualifying purchases.



With its strategic location and early opening hours, McDonald's Tirona Highway is poised to become a regular stop for breakfast and quick meals, strengthening McDonald's presence in Kawit, Cavite and neighboring areas.

M love ko 'to

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The celebration also featured meet-and-greet activities with McDonald's characters, including Grimace, Birdie, and Hamburglar, scheduled at various times from morning to afternoon, adding to the festive atmosphere for families and children. Special McDelivery offers, including free delivery for first-time users, were also made available to customers as part of the opening-day promos.

The establishment of McDonald's Tirona Highway contributes to local employment and economic activity, reinforcing the company's commitment to community development and accessible food service.



For we walk by faith, not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7

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PAG-IBIG...

MANILA – The Pag-IBIG Fund has partnered with construction firm Megawide Construction Corp. to fast-track the building of about 7,143 socialized housing units under the expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino Program (4PH).

In a news release Thursday, Pag-IBIG Fund said medium-rise residential projects -- priced below prevailing market rates for comparable units -- would be developed, placing them within the socialized housing range while offering amenities typically found in higher-priced developments.

The units are expected to be completed within two to three years.

The partnership covers two initial project sites in Dasmariñas, Cavite, comprising 4,185 housing units in the Dasmariñas-Salitrán site and 2,958 units in the Dasmariñas-Paliparan site, he added. (PNA)

The developments are expected to support the national government's push to scale up socialized housing through increased private sector participation and faster project delivery.

Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling, who chairs the Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees, said the partnership is designed to expand the supply of socialized housing while enabling faster construction and more accessible pricing for Filipino families.

Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene Acosta said the investment advances the agency's mandate of expanding homeownership opportunities while ensuring prudent management of members' savings.

“By strengthening partnerships that increase housing supply, we help create more opportunities for Filipino workers and their families to move closer to homeownership. We hope this will further stimulate private sector participation in building affordable homes,” he added. (PNA)

CAYETANO...

Under the partnership, Pag-IBIG Fund will invest up to PHP10 billion through a subscription to preferred shares in the project company.

The investment will be released in three tranches: PHP5 billion for the first tranche and PHP2.5 billion each for the second and third tranches.

“The CHED should be guided by science and be data-driven. Let's get the data and see what we can do together,” he said, urging the agency to use reliable data in crafting its programs that will translate into measurable outcomes while ensuring prudent management of members' savings.

“By supporting the development of thousands of housing units while securing investment returns, we strengthen Pag-IBIG Fund's capacity to serve more members, grow their savings, and promote homeownership,” she added. (PNA)

During the Senate budget hearing on October 17, 2025, lawmakers raised concerns over CHED's P32.49-billion budget for next year, citing declining allocations for student financial assistance programs such as the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) and Tulong Dunong Program (TDP).

The programs have seen repeated funding cuts despite growing demand and enrollment in CHED and its attached institutions.

both public and private higher education institutions.

CHED commissioner Shirley C. Agrupis said the agency's 2026 plan focuses on state universities and colleges (SUCs), scholarships, and research support.

However, she admitted challenges in sustaining the coverage of scholars under the Free Higher Education Law (RA 10931), especially those studying in private schools.

Senators also pointed to low fund utilization and delays in project implementation among SUCs, along with Commission on Audit (COA) findings on slow liquidation of scholarship funds and inconsistent monitoring of school performance.

“If we are to produce a globally competitive workforce and make education the true driver of national development, we need decisive, coordinated action,” he said.

Cayetano, who previously chaired the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical, and Vocational Education, said these issues highlight the need for performance-based budgeting and stronger accountability mechanisms in CHED and its attached institutions.

He earlier backed CHED's “ACHIEVE” 7-point agenda, which promotes access, quality, and institutional resilience among higher education institutions.

Cayetano also renewed his call for the creation of the Third Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM III), which seeks to review and align the country's education system from basic to higher and technical learning to ensure that policies and budgets promote employability, innovation, and inclusive growth.

“By laying the groundwork for a truly cohesive and responsive education system, we aim to transform the nation by building the right foundations,” he added.

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CHRISTMAS CHEER TO YOU!

FROM: WEDNESDAY CHRONICLE
NEWS PUBLISHING SERVICES



From Screen to Spotlight: Southeast Asian community filmmakers shine at the 2025 SineMaya Community Short Film Festival



BENTE Productions Chairman Mr. Hugo C. Yonzon III (leftmost) and CARD MRI Senior Adviser Ms. Aniceta R. Alip (second from left) pose with the Light by the Sea Productions team from Vietnam, recipients of the Best Film award in the Legacy Lens Category for their film “Light by the Sea”, a SineMaya film entry that tells the story of a woman struggling to care for her children and elderly mother after losing her husband at sea, who receives help from her community so her son can stay in school.

The 2025 SineMaya Community Film Festival, organized by BENTE Productions, the multimedia arm of CARD MRI, culminated in an awarding ceremony on December 15, 2025, at SM City San Pablo. The festival celebrated short films that embodied the official theme, “PAMANAON: Stewards of the Future,” highlighting the importance of legacy, responsibility, and collective action.

This year's festival brought together filmmakers from diverse communities who used filmmaking as a platform to explore social realities, cultural heritage, and hope, while also embracing innovation through emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. By combining storytelling with innovation, the event showcased how film can be both an artistic and transformative medium.

Reaffirming the festival's vision, CARD MRI Founder and Chair Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristote B. Alip highlighted the transformative power of storytelling, saying, “Through SineMaya, filmmakers were encouraged to craft stories that reflect how the choices and actions of today shape the lives and opportunities of future generations.” He also praised the participants for creating works that go beyond entertainment. “Their courage, creativity, and purposeful narratives demonstrate how art can help shape a more compassionate and responsible world,” he added.

Following a rigorous judging process of all 18 SineMaya finalists, where each entry was carefully as-

sed for storytelling, technical skill, creativity, and social relevance, the winning films emerged as works that inspired, moved, and touched the audience.

Top honors were awarded to “Alab” by Paroy Film Productions, which received Best Film for the AI-Powered Film category, and “Light by the Sea” by Light by the Sea Productions, which won Best Film for the Legacy Lens category. Both films also earned special recognition through the Legacy Awards, with “Alab” receiving the CARD MRI Managing Director's Choice Award, and “Light by the Sea” being named one of the recipients of the CARD MRI Founder's Excellence Award, alongside “Pamaon” by ShotUp Productions. These recognitions underscored the films' ability to merge artistic excellence with strong messages of service, resilience, and intergenerational responsibility—values closely aligned with the festival's theme.

Outstanding achievements in performance, direction, and technical craft were also recognized. The

Acting Awards honored Rosalie Castillo as Best Supporting Actor in a Female Role for her portrayal of Nanay Riya in “Pag-alala” of Balik-Tanaw Productions, and Ken Laurence Ante as Best Supporting Actor in a Male Role for his role as Arvin in “Liham” by Bikolanong Lagalag Productions. The Best Actor in a Female Role was bagged by Jorlyn Ledesma for her performance as Lira in “Binihi sa Kaugmaon” by Kanlaon Film Productions, while Nel Estuya received Best Actor in a Male Role for his portrayal of Tatay Fernando in “Saan Aabot Ang Singkuenta Ni Tatay?” filmed by Kisapmata Film Productions.

Technical excellence was likewise celebrated, with Best Editing awarded to Jhon Lorenz Jegilos for “Liham” and Best Cinematography to Jimuel Sohitado for “Binihi sa Kaugmaon”. Meanwhile, Dang Thi Hanh was named Best Director for the visually and emotionally compelling “Light by the Sea”.

Innovation took center stage in the AI-lamat Category, where “Alab” emerged as a dominant force, winning multiple awards, including Best AI-Powered Visual Effects, Editing, and Cinematography, as well as Excellence in AI-Enhanced Directing for Christian Laurence Jegilos. Meanwhile, “Damay: Mangagaway” by Dangshin

Productions received Best Lifelike AI Characterization, highlighting how technology can be harnessed to deepen storytelling while maintaining emotional authenticity.

Special awards recognized creativity and audience impact, with “Ang Huling Punla” by Dos-T Productions winning Best Musical Scoring; “Saan Aabot Ang Singkuenta Ni Tatay?” by Kisapmata Film Productions earning both Best Screenplay and the People's Choice Award; and “Damay: Mangagaway” by Dangshin Productions taking home Best Trailer.

The festival also underscored its commitment to social advocacies through the Community Development Awards. Honorees included “Hope in the

DA-ATI CALABARZON Pinangunahan ang YIPOA Batch 3 Culminating Activity sa Laguna



MAJAYJAY, Laguna — Pinangunahan ng Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Training Institute CALABARZON ang culminating activity ng Youth Internship Program on Organic Agriculture (YIPOA) Batch 3 na may temang "Nurturing the Future", na ginanap noong Disyembre 22, 2025 sa Costales Nature Farms.

Dinaluhan ang aktibidad ng anim (6) na interns at apat (4) na farm partners mula sa ibang lalawigan ng rehiyon ng CALABARZON. Bahagi ng programa ang paggawad ng financial support na nagkakahalaga ng P150,000.00 sa bawat intern, na iginawad ni Center Director Rolando V. Maninges, RAg, bilang tulong sa pagpapatupad ng kanilang

mga aprubadong Business o Enterprise Plans (BEP). Sa kanyang mensahe, ipinahayag ni Dr. Maninges ang kanyang taos-pusong pasasalamat sa mga interns sa patuloy nilang pagyakap sa organikong pagsasaka, gayundin sa mga mentors na may mahalagang papel sa paggabay at paghubog ng kabataang agripreneurs. Binigyang-diin din niya ang patuloy na pagsusulong ng organikong agrikultura bilang susi sa mas ligtas at sustenableng produksyon ng pagkain sa rehiyon.

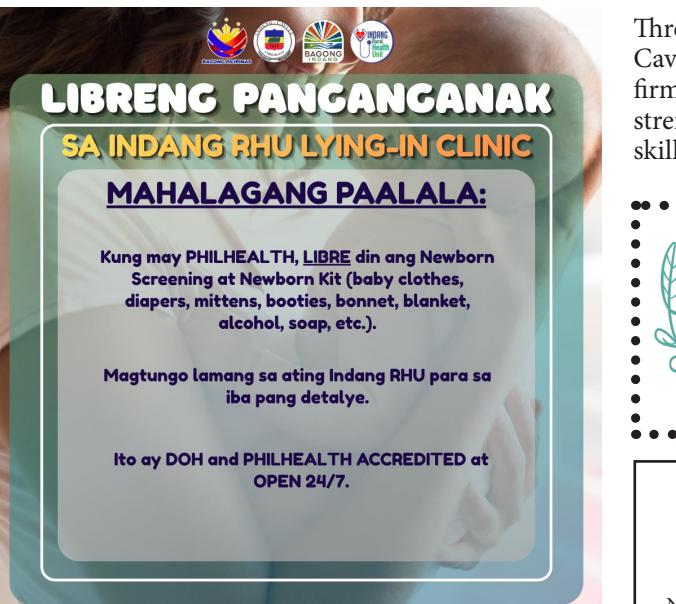
Nagpabot din ng suporta ang Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office sa pamamagitan ni G. Arnaldo P. Gonzales, Alternate Organic Agriculture Focal Person, na kumatawan kay RTD Felix Joselito H. Noceda, Regional Organic Agriculture Focal Person. Ipinahayag nila ang kanilang pagbati at pasasalamat sa mga interns at mentors bilang pagkilala sa kanilang dedikasyon at mahalagang ambag sa tagumpay ng programa.

Ang YIPOA ay patuloy na nagsisilbing plataporma ng pamahalaan sa paghikayat sa kabataan na pumasok sa larangan ng agrikultura at yakapin ang organikong pagsasaka bilang isang makabuluhang at pangmata galang kabuhayan.



ATI CALABARZON

Libreng Serbisyon Panganganak Iniaalok sa Indang RHU Lying-In Clinic



INDANG, Cavite — Patuloy na pinapalakas ng Pamahalaang Bayan ng Indang ang serbisyon pangkalusugan para sa mga ina at sanggol sa pamamagitan ng libreng panganganak na iniaalok sa Indang Rural Health Unit (RHU) Lying-In Clinic.

Ang pasilidad ay nagbibigay ng kumpletong serbisyon medikal para sa mga buntis at bagong silang na sanggol, kabilang ang libreng gamot, bakuna, laboratory tests, at newborn care services. Layundin ng programa na matiyak ang ligtas, maagap, at maalagang panganganak para sa bawat Indangeña.

Bukasang RHU Lying-In Clinic 24 oras sa isang araw atito ay akreditadong Department of Health at PhilHealth, na nagbibigay ng katiyakan sa kalidad at kaligtasan ng serbisyon medikal na ibinibigay sa mga pasyente.

Ang libreng serbisyon ito ay handog ng Pamahalaang Bayan ng Indang sa pamumuno ni Vergel Fidel, bilang bahagi ng patuloy na adbokasiya ng lokal na pamahalaan para sa mas episyente at makataong serbisyon pangkalusugan tungo sa isang Bagong Indang. /PR

PGC Extends Educational Aid to Over 15,000 CvSU Students

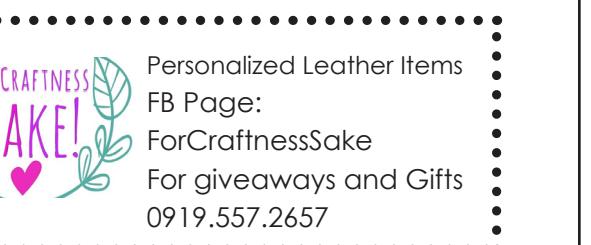


CAVITE — The Provincial Government of Cavite, under the leadership of Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" D. Remulla, continues to prioritize education through the Iskolar ng Lalawigan ng Cavite program, an initiative designed to help ease the financial burden of students pursuing higher education.

A total of 15,249 students from Cavite State University received P2,000 each in cash assistance, benefitting enrollees from CvSU campuses in Silang, Imus, Rosario, and Cavite City. The educational aid aims to provide direct financial support to deserving Caviteño students, helping them address academic and day-to-day school-related expenses.

The program underscores the provincial government's sustained investment in human capital by ensuring that students have access to essential resources needed to pursue and complete their studies. By extending assistance across multiple CvSU campuses, the initiative seeks to reach a wider segment of the student population throughout the province.

Through programs such as Iskolar ng Lalawigan ng Cavite, the Provincial Government of Cavite reaffirms its commitment to empowering the youth and strengthening the foundation for a more educated, skilled, and resilient Caviteño community. /PR



NOTICE AFFIDAVIT OF SOLE ADJUDICATION

NOTICE is hereby given that the funds of the late ERLINDA GUILLERMO TECALA from BPI and Metrobank has been solely adjudicated by her sole heir, Atty. Inocentes A. Tecala, of legal age, widower, Filipino, and with residence and postal address at Unit 28A/B DV Palazzo Condominium, Eastwood, Bagumbayan, Quezon City, Metro Manila, as per AFFIDAVIT OF SOLE ADJUDICATION executed and notarized on December 12, 2025 at Kavit, Cavite before Notary Public, ATTY. ANDRES JOSE M. ALBA, PTR No. CAV 9424808, under Doc No. 393, Page No. 80, Book No. CXIV, Series of 2025.

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PANGILINAN...

Express Lane (counterflow lane) will be activated subject to traffic conditions. These lanes will be accessible to Class 1 RFID-only vehicles, with northbound operations on Fridays from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM (entry at Balintawak Expansion Plaza) and southbound operations on Sundays from 2:00 PM and early Mondays from 5:00 AM (entry at Bocaue Expansion Plaza).

Free passage in the MPTC Luzon expressways

Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) is pleased to announce a toll-free initiative for motorists during select hours over the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Motorists can enjoy free toll passages on NLEX, SCTEX, NLEX Connector, CAVITEX, and CALAX during the festive hours:

*December 24, 10:00 PM to December 25 at 6:00 AM
*December 31, 10:00 PM to January 1 at 6:00 AM

Trip planning is made easier with the MPT DriveHub app, which provides traffic updates, toll fee calculation, RFID reloading, and access to emergency roadside assistance.

Motorists are encouraged to ensure their RFID accounts are active and sufficiently loaded prior to their travels.

To manage increased traffic volume, all roadworks and lane closures will be suspended from 6:00 AM on December 19, 2025, until 12 noon on January 5, 2026, except for emergency safety repairs. Additional traffic, toll, and emergency and medical response teams will be deployed, and all lanes in major toll plazas will remain open to accommodate peak traffic.

For regular updates and road safety tips, motorists can check out MPTC expressways' official Facebook accounts @ NLEXexpressways and @ OfficialCALAX, as well as its 24/7 hotline at 1-35000. To further ease congestion along NLEX,

Cash-paying customers are advised to shift to RFID for faster transactions. Visit Easytrip's website www.easytrip.ph for more information.

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Amadeo Honors Barangays in Paskuhan sa Barangay 2025 Awarding



AMADEO, Cavite — The true spirit of Christmas and bayanihan was celebrated as Mayor Jojo Domingo led the Paskuhan sa Barangay 2025 Awarding Ceremony, recognizing the dedication, creativity, and unity of the barangays of Amadeo.

The annual competition highlighted how each barangay showcased teamwork, environmental consciousness, and community pride through festive displays and activities that embodied the essence of the Christmas season.

Barangay Dagatan was named Grand Prize Winner, followed by Barangay Poblacion 6 as Second Place, and Barangay Maitim I as Third Place. Special awards were also conferred, recognizing outstanding performance in cleanliness, creativity, and community participation. Additional citations included the Cleanest Barangays, People's Choice Award, and Best in Belen, among others.

Mayor Domingo commended the barangay officials and residents for their collective efforts, noting that the success of the program was made possible through cooperation and shared responsibility among community members.

More than a simple awarding ceremony, the event served as a meaningful reminder of what makes Amadeo special—communities working together, celebrating excellence, and keeping the genuine spirit of Paskuhan alive. /PR

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CENRO Catanauan Honors Environmental Champions in “Araw ng Parangal 2025”



natural resource management within the community.

The program opened with a convocation and welcome remarks that reiterated the DENR's mandate and emphasized the importance of strong multi-stakeholder collaboration in effective environmental governance. Speakers underscored that meaningful conservation and sustainable development are best achieved through shared responsibility, continuous partnership, and collective action aligned with national environmental goals.

The ceremony culminated in the awarding of honors to deserving individuals and institutions, who expressed their gratitude and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting DENR initiatives. The activity aimed not only to recognize exemplary service but also to boost morale and promote a culture of excellence, dedication, and professionalism.

Through activities such as Araw ng Parangal, DENR-CENRO Catanauan continues to strengthen environmental stewardship and deepen community engagement toward the protection and sustainable use of natural resources in Catanauan. /PR

COMRESCOM Leads Donning of Ranks of Newly Commissioned Reservist Officer



cer in the Reserve Force of the Philippine Army.

In his remarks, Lt. Col. Padilla expressed his gratitude and reaffirmed his commitment to serve the country and the Filipino people. He pledged to uphold the core values of the Philippine Army and to contribute his skills and leadership in support of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' mission.

The ceremony underscored COMRESCOM's continued commitment to developing capable and dedicated reservist leaders, highlighting the vital role of the Citizen Armed Force in safeguarding national security and advancing nation-building efforts. /PR

QUEZON CITY — The Reserve Command, Philippine Army (COMRESCOM) formally welcomed a newly commissioned reservist officer as Major General Ronald Jess S. Alcudia, Commander of the Reserve Command, led the Donning of Ranks ceremony of Lieutenant Colonel Robinhood C. Padilla, PA (RES), on December 19, 2025.

The ceremony was held at the Hall of Flags of V. Luna Medical Center under the AFP Health Service Command. It began with the reading of commissioned orders by Major Moreno R. Vigilia (INF) PA, Officer-in-Charge, Adjutant and S1 of the NCRRCDG.

Major General Alcudia administered the Donning of Ranks and the Oath of Incorporation, marking the official assumption of rank and responsibilities of Lt. Col. Padilla as a commissioned offi-

Discover Cartoonville Skyranch Tagaytay, The Newest Kid-Friendly Attraction Near Manila

Cartoonville at Skyranch Tagaytay is the newest kid-friendly spot for weekend bonding, holiday trips, and family adventures. Find out what to expect, ticket prices, and where to eat. Read the article to learn more.



If you're a Millennial or Gen Z parent, you know the drill: the 13th-month bonus drops, and suddenly you're planning all the family-friendly things to do before the holiday rush peaks. If you're looking for a kid-friendly attraction near Manila (read: something fun, affordable, and perfect for building holiday memories), the newest spot in Cavite is calling your name: Cartoonville at Skyranch Tagaytay.



Welcome to Cartoonville, the newest attraction in town!

This immersive cartoon-themed village is one of the newest outdoor family attractions in the South, making it an ideal choice if you're searching for things to do this weekend, holiday activities with kids, or a quick bonding activity that won't break your bonus budget.

First things first: what is Cartoonville?



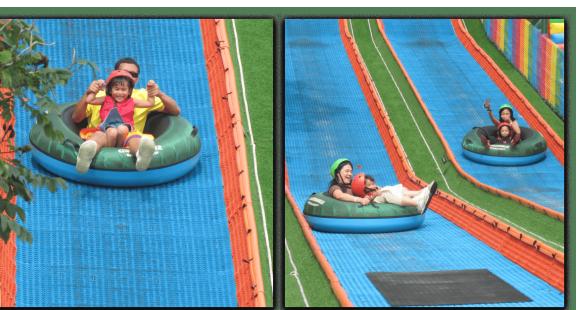
Cartoonville is a surefire way to have an epic weekend adventure with the family!

Cartoonville is the newest family-friendly attraction inside Skyranch Tagaytay, a DOT-accredited tourist recreational center and one of the most vis-

ited Tagaytay attractions. It's designed as a colorful cartoon village filled with IG-worthy photo spots, whimsical characters, live entertainment, and playful activities kids and kids-at-heart will love.

It's an attraction exclusive to Skyranch Tagaytay, making it a unique stop for those planning a Tagaytay day trip.

Major Attractions Inside Cartoonville



This is the slide the kids won't stop talking about... and honestly, same!

Family bonding but make it competitive. The Gel Blaster is where kids, tweens, and even parents go full action mode.

At PHP 150, admission to Cartoonville itself is affordable, especially considering that it already includes access to the entire village, the Forest Lights experience, live cartoon shows, and meet-and-greets throughout the day. Kids below 11 months even get in for free. The only added fee is the entrance to Skyranch Tagaytay (PHP 120). Once you're inside, however, it feels like a full day's worth of activities packaged neatly into one family trip.



Cartoonville is just the beginning. Skyranch's timeless rides, like the carousel, Nessie Coaster, and the Drop Tower keep the magic going all day.

Cartoonville follows Skyranch Tagaytay's hours. On weekdays they open at 10:00 AM and close at 10:00 PM. On weekends and holidays, they start two hours earlier at 8:00 AM. Weekdays tend to be calmer and more relaxed, making them ideal for those who prefer quieter, stroller-friendly places, while weekends carry that festive Tagaytay buzz that families love.

Beyond Cartoonville

