

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

formerly the MountainViews-Observer

Saturday, April 4, 2009 Volume 3 No. 14

Neglected Ordinance Creates Problems For Local Businesses

By Susan Henderson

When the owners of *The Center For Well Being* saw an opportunity to expand their business by moving to a larger location in the city, they thought it would be relatively simple. Yvonne Fata and Tanya Edmonds negotiated a lease for the new location, which is currently occupied by a spa, and prepared for their grand relocation.

The move was going to work out nicely for another local business as well.

Sandy Lewis-Duvall planned to expand Sierra Fitness but taking over the space vacated by the Center for Well Being, which is next to her current location.

However, after Yvonne went to city hall to submit an application for a banner for the front of the new location, one telephone call brought both expansion plans to a halt.

According to the Center's co-owner, Tonya, City Hall informed them that they could not move into the new location, at least not until after they successfully completed a long and expensive process.

The business owner was told, "You can't move". They were told that day spas are not on the list of acceptable businesses in the downtown area. This came as quite a surprise to Yvonne and Tonya, since they currently operate a day spa in the downtown area. It also came as a surprise, according to Tonya, to the owner of Harmony Day Spa, which has been operating a spa with a business license in Sierra Madre for 14 years.

Upon further inquiry, the business owners were told that the city's Commercial Downtown Overlay Ordinance, adopted by the City Council in 2005, prevented businesses that were not on the approved list from operating in Sierra Madre without obtaining a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). A permit, which according to Tonya, could cost the business owners as much as \$2,500.00.

Danny Castro, Development Director for the city, confirmed that based upon the city's existing ordinance, the business owners were prohibited from moving until they applied for and were granted a CUP. "There is a list of uses for businesses in the downtown area",

said Castro. "If the business is not on the list, then unfortunately they don't qualify for a CUP."

This is not the first time a business has been confronted with this dilemma. Last year, the owner of Capelli Court Salon attempted to get a CUP and move to a different location within the downtown. She was also informed that, despite the fact that her salon had been legally operating in the city for years, she would have to get a CUP. At that time, the 'list of uses' did not include Barber and Beauty shops.

After several months of red tape, the city's planning commission and city council granted the addition of Beauty and Barber shops to the 'list'.

"With an economy in such bad shape, it would seem that the city would be doing things to help businesses stay in the city, not drive them away", said Tonya.

The Commercial Downtown Overlay Zone was adopted in 2005, as an emergency measure to help the city manage business development downtown. At that time, there was a great deal of concern about the kinds of businesses that could settle in the downtown area and what impact they would have on the proposed development of Howie's Market and the Skilled Nursing Center. The measure was supposed to be rescinded and/or expire. To date, neither has happened. After the passage of Measure V and the abandonment of efforts to pass a Downtown Specific Plan, the 'emergency' ordinance was left intact.

City Manager Elaine Aguilar is very aware of the problems that exist. "The city understands the hurdles that new businesses must go through in order to locate in the downtown area. The council has made a commitment to revisit the Downtown Overlay Zone in the near future. In fact, the council previously gave the Planning Commission direction to look at it the ordinance. The Planning Commission is read to make recommendations to the council", says Aguilar.

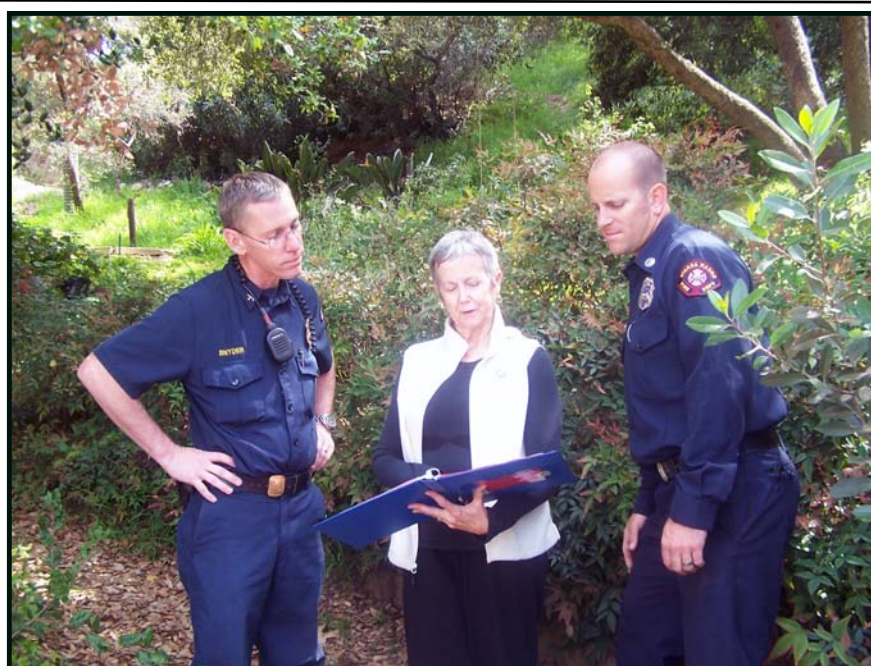
Yvonne and Tonya are left in limbo. If they pursue a CUP, the process will cost a couple thousand dollars and take months.

Gone Fishin' - Sierra Madre Style



Sierra Madre's Annual Huck Finn Fishing Derby drew out the crowds last weekend. The three day event, which included overnight camping on Friday, a fishing derby for children on Saturday morning, and Family fishing through Sunday afternoon, was organized by the city's Department of Community and Personnel Services. Local organizations such as Sierra Madre's Kiwanis and their Key Club, Rotary and their Interact Club, Civic Club, and the city's Volunteer Fire Department (partial listing), helped sponsor and staff the event. The city's debris basin was stocked with fish and bringing home a prize catch was easy - no need for tall tales, the fish were jumping for young and old!

Photo By D. Lee/MVO



Sierra Madre Fire Marshal Rich Snyder and Engineer/Wildland Coordinator Ryan Souder review the condition of the brush in the hills above Sierra Madre in preparation for this year's fire season. They are seen here discussing the status of the Fire Safe Council Chipper Program with the Fire Safe Council P.R. Director Caroline Brown. Anyone who is interested in taking advantage of the Chipper Program is encouraged to call 355-0741. The Fire Safe Council meets this Monday night at the City Council Chambers at 7pm.

Now That's A Toy!

We're not really certain what was going through this young man's mind when he checked out the driver's seat of this tractor. We do know that he was having fun! He was one of many children and adults who stopped by the Open House sponsored by Public Works last weekend.



We've Changed Our Name.... but all else remains the same!

2009 is a year in which many great changes have and will take place. For the Publisher/Editor of this paper, Susan Henderson, a very significant change is the name of the paper. The Mountain Views Observer has a new name..... **Mountain Views News**a change that has been a few months in the making.

However, the commitment to delivering news that Sierra Madre and its surrounding communities need to hear about remains the same. In the coming weeks you will notice additional changes in our format, web presence and more. All designed to serve you better and more efficiently. Stay tuned!

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Annual Easter Egg Hunt

SIERRA MADRE CA - The 88th Annual Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by the Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters Association and sponsored by Nestlé USA Inc., will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2009, promptly at 10:00 AM.

The 88th Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held in Sierra Madre Memorial Park, located on W. Sierra Madre Blvd at S. Hermosa Avenue in Sierra Madre. Children, nine years of age and younger, are invited to enjoy Easter candy and "hunt" for the elusive 36 Golden Eggs which are redeemable for wonderful goodie baskets. Nestlé USA Inc. is generously sponsoring this wonderful event and donating all the candy.

Please join the children, the Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters and Nestlé USA Inc. for a wonderful time; and keep your eyes wide open for the Easter Bunny who will arrive just before 10:00 AM on a Fire Engine to meet all the children.



The perfect place for mom & me time!

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900 Valley View Ave ☞ Open Monday through Saturday ☞ Corner of N. Michillinda and W. Montecito ☞ Phone: 626-510-6151

Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast
Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

Friends April Best Used Book Sale
April 3 & 4

April Showers bring...books! In fact they bring an excellent selection for all ages at very reasonable prices. Let's take a peek:

Teens: Your wonderful selection of books in April includes the popular "Twilight" series. Looking to adorn your coffee table with books of unparalleled beauty? You'll discover stunning picture books on Lighthouses, Big Sur, Tuscany, and the Village of Greece to name but a few. Epicureans can feast on cookbooks including In America's Test Kitchen, and an excellent selection of books on Home Decorating. There will also be a new collection of children's books.

Of course a new selection of DVD's, videos and books on tape are in the offering for April. And outside tables (April showers permitting) will be filled with hard back fiction titles for \$1.00 each, and paperback books for 25 cents each.

Mark those calendars for Friday, April 3rd, from 3:00 to 7:00 pm and Saturday, April 4th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to come visit us at the library: 440 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre. Need help with directions? Call (626) 355-7186. The Friends operate the Best Used Book Store. Reasonable prices and all proceeds support the library programs. Come and shop early for the best finds

WACKY, WOOLY, WILDLIFE AT
SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY

Chinchillas, iguanas, and hedgehogs, oh my! On Monday, April 13, at 3:30 p.m., The Wildlife Company will kick off National Library Week at the Sierra Madre Public Library with "Habitats and Adaptations," a 45-minute interactive program for youth. Volunteers from the audience will have an opportunity to get up close and personal with a variety of small, tame, exotic creatures. Experienced trainers will showcase various animal "ambassadors" from across the globe, and describe how they adapt to survive in an ever-changing world. For more information contact Meegan Tosh at (626) 355-4672, or visit the Library's website at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us. The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER "PICNIC"
AT SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE

March 6- April 11, 2009. Fri. & Sat. at 8, Sun. at 2:30

Dark on Sunday, March 15

Admission is \$20

Seniors (65+) and students (13-17), \$17

Children 12 and under, \$12

RESERVATIONS: (626) 355-4318

GROUP RESERVATIONS: (626) 836-2125

ONLINE: www.sierramadreplayhouse.orgSanta Anita Park to Host
Chamber Breakfast
and Facility Tour

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce April Mixer will be held at Santa Anita Park in the Baldwin Conference room on Thursday, April 9th at 7:30am. The Baldwin Conference room includes views of morning workouts which will be taking place at the same time. Attendees will have a chance to observe some of the horses at the track being put through their paces as they enjoy the continental breakfast provided by Santa Anita Park.

Guests should enter off Baldwin Ave. at Gate 8, and follow the signs that will lead the way to the mixer. Gate 8 will be the only accessible entry into the park at that hour of the morning, so it is critical that guests use that entrance.

Sierra Madre's 2007 Citizen of the Year Pete Siberell is the invited guest speaker. Siberell also sits on the Sierra Madre Library Board of Trustees, is Chairman of the Mt. Wilson Trail Race Committee, and serves as president of the Sierra Madre Little League. Outside Sierra Madre, Siberell is on the Board of Directors for the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce, and is involved with the Methodist Hospital Foundation and the Arcadia Chapter of the Red Cross.

In addition to Siberell, if work schedules allow, Santa Anita horsemen may

also stop by. Following the breakfast, Santa Anita Special Event Coordinator Elizabeth Booth will lead interested mixer attendees on a tour of the facility that will last about half an hour. The mixer will end at 9pm, with the facility tour to begin at that time.

Cost to attend the mixer is \$10 for Chamber members, \$15 for non-members. A business card drawing will be held featuring prizes donated by Chamber members.

About the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce is a member organization comprising mostly Sierra Madre businesses. Its mission is "To encourage a healthy business environment by advancing, promoting and supporting the businesses serving Sierra Madre."

About Santa Anita Park

Santa Anita Park occupies approximately 320 acres in the City of Arcadia. Its landmark, 1,100-foot-long Grandstand seats 26,000 guests. The giant infield accommodates many thousands more. Behind the scenes are 61 barns, capable of housing more than 2,000 horses and a complete equine hospital. The current racing season began Dec. 26th, 2008 and ends April 19th. In addition, Santa Anita's fall meeting, presented by the Oak Tree Racing Association, takes to the track from late September to early November every year and will be home to the 2009 Breeders' Cup World Championships.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 HAPPY EASTER	 Rhythm and Rhyme 2nd Annual Jazz and Poetry Festival	7	1 April Fool's Day & Farmer's Market	2 Senior Commission Meeting 3:00 pm Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm	 9 Barks & Books at Sierra Madre Library Children are invited to read to gentle and friendly dog visitors.	 18 Legendary Bingo at the Rec Center Doors Open 6:30
			8 Farmer's Market	16 Third Thursday Book Club		
14 City Council Meeting Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	 EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 12TH	 28 City Council Meeting Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	15 Farmer's Market	 22 Farmer's Market	 29 Farmer's Market	 April 2009
29 Farmer's Market						

Calling All Artisans and Patrons: Renaissance Returning To Sierra Madre

Memorial Park in Sierra Madre will yet again be transformed into an artistic carnival of creative...um, creativity. Yes, on Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, May 17, 2009, the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will turn Sierra Madre into an irresistible feast for all the senses. We will see, we will hear, and we will taste!

100 artists will be displaying the fruits of their passion, efforts and labor. What's more they'll give us a peek at how they create their masterpieces. The rest of us, as patrons of the arts, will have the opportunity of adding these treasures to our private collections. Imagine transforming your living room into a gallery that will make the Norton Simon's and Getty's of this world chortle with envy.

Add entertaining live music, craft projects for the youngin's, and

a wide range of tantalizing food to this festival of epic proportions, and you have the event of the season: The 47th Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair.

Artists: Sales are high as our Fair is well known for its superior quality emphasizing fine arts and skilled craftsmanship. The number of entries in each category is limited so now is the time apply. Apply at <http://sierramadrelibraryfriends.org>. Or contact Sharon Murphy at (626) 355-3977.

To the Rest Of Us: Be sure to mark Saturday, May 16, 2009, 9:30 - 6:00pm, and Sunday, May 17, 2009, 9:30 - 5:00pm on our calendars as a Must See Event Weekend. Memorial Park is located in Sierra Madre at 222 West Sierra Madre Blvd. 1 long (and I mean long) block west of Baldwin Avenue.

CLIFFORD SWAN
INVESTMENT COUNSEL

Kathleen Gilmore, CFP®, Principal

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SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

Every Wednesday 4pm-7pm

Fresh vegetables and seasonal fruits from California family farms. Specialty foods, vegetarian and vegan dishes, ethnic foods and hot food - Everything you'll find at the farmers market has been made or picked fresh, is pesticide-free and preservative-free. Free public on Mariposa.

www.mtnviewsnews.com"TRAVELERS & COLLECTORS"
VISITS THE MIDEAST

Join Don and Janet Heins at Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers on Friday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m., as they take you on a fascinating trek through the cities and desert sands of the Arab Middle East in their multi-media program, *Through the Suez Canal to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan*. You'll explore Petra, the mysterious "Rose Red City," stop at the Dead Sea, and survey the land Moses and the Israelites traversed on their journey to the Promised Land. Their presentation will also feature a close look at the peoples, culture, and music of these ancient lands, and a special adventure-of-lifetime encounter with two Bedouin tribes.

Travelers and Collectors is held on the second Friday of the month and runs from February through May. All programs start 7:30 p.m. and are held in the Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information and a schedule of upcoming programs, contact The Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, (626) 355-7186, or visit www.cityofsierramadre.org. Travelers and Collectors is sponsored by The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library.

Lost and Found

Found: 1985 ALVERNO HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK belonging to Francesca Moorhead. Contact Jeff 836-6524

DINE WITH
THE SIERRA
MADRE

KIWANIS CLUB

The Sierra Madre Kiwanis will hold their monthly dinner meeting at the Thai Restaurant on Sierra Madre Blvd., Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

Join us for a wonderful evening of great dining and good company. For Reservations Call: 355-6786

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skill
required!

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MONDAY nights in SIERRA MADRE - (626) 355-4572

Your first LAUGH is 'on the house'!

What's the Name of the Game?
Saturday, April 18th, 2009

Doors open at 6:30 - Bingo starts at 7:30

Legendary Bingo
Featuring the Fabulous Belle Aire

A night of bingo you won't soon forget

All donations help us build the float

\$20 Donation at the Door
GREAT PRIZES!

Pizza, Wine & Beer Available

Sierra Madre
Recreation Center
611 East
Sierra Madre Blvd.

Between Baldwin and Santa Anita Ave.

Wild or Mild -
This Is Not Your
Grandmother's
BINGO!
For more information, visit SierraMadreRoseFloat.com

RARY SIMMONS GARDEN

This 1960's English Tudor home represents country life at its most charming. A brick façade and wooden shake roof invite you to explore an idyllic setting that is classic without being formal and understated while encompassing a wide variety of plant material. A circular brick driveway lined with Cyclamen in raised beds defines the front lawn where Birch, Liquid Ambers, and a Modesto Ash tree provide a vertical counterpoint to the sloping roof line. An antique lamppost originally located near a horse trough on the corner of Orange Grove and Colorado in Pasadena marks the entrance to a covered breezeway creating a shady bower above a bed of shade-loving aspidistras (cast-iron plants) and Australian tree-ferns. Wood planters containing herbs are located conveniently outside the kitchen door, and a red-berried Pyracantha climbs the wall of the house. The back lawn separates a brick patio anchored by a Jacaranda. A vine covered wall provides a backdrop for a brick fireplace with a built-in barbecue. The pool and spa opposite the patio are bordered by potted Roses, citrus trees, Lavender, Azaleas and Camellias. The formal Rose garden adds structure and definition to this classic English country estate.



Creative Arts Group is proud to present four exemplary gardens showcasing the work of our most talented landscape architects and designers. We wish to thank homeowners Rary Simmons, James and Jeanette Mamakos, Anthony and Teresa Clougherty, and Mark and Amanda Holdsworth. For tickets and more information visit Creative Arts Group at 108 N. Baldwin Ave. in Sierra Madre or call (626) 355-8350.



Garden Tour

April 19, 2009
10:30 am – 4:30 pm

Showcasing exquisite gardens in Pasadena and San Marino

Tickets can be purchased at

Creative Arts Group

108 N. Baldwin Ave.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

In person, by mail, or phone
626-355-8350

\$25 pre-sale • \$30 day of tour

Creative Arts Group Presents

Art of the Garden

April: Jazz Appreciation Month

by Pat Birdsall

Jazz has been called the purist expression of American democracy; a music built on individualism and compromise, independence and cooperation. Jazz represents a merging and melding of many different peoples and their heritages. During the 1800s in America's south, music was an integral part of the life of plantation slaves of African descent. Plantation songs, spirituals, and field hollers were a part of everyday life—to celebrate, to mourn, to entertain, to commemorate, to worship, and to accompany the drudgery of work. This music of the plantations blended with the European-American musical tradition to create the basis for blues, ragtime, and other musical forms from which jazz evolved.

In his film Jazz, Ken Burns called Louis Armstrong the most important and influential musician in jazz history.

Armstrong was born in one of the poorest sections of New Orleans on August 4, 1901. He was a hard-working kid who helped support his mother and sister by working every type of job there was, including going out on street corners

at night to sing for coins. At age 7, he bought his first real horn—a cornet. When Armstrong was 11 years old, juvenile court sent him to the Jones Home for Colored Waifs for firing a pistol on New Year's Eve. While there, he had his first formal music lessons and played in the home's brass band. After about 18 months he was released. From then on, he largely supported himself as a musician, playing with pick-up bands and in small clubs with his mentor Joe "King" Oliver. Oliver was one of a handful of noted musicians in New Orleans—along with Jelly Roll Morton, Sidney Bechet and others—who were creating distinctive and widely popular new band music out of blues and ragtime.

The early 1920s saw Armstrong's popularity explode as he left New Orleans for Chicago to play with "King" Oliver's Creole Jazz Band, and then moved to New York, where he influenced the Fletcher Henderson Orchestra with improvisation and a new musical vocabulary. When he returned to Chicago in 1926, he was a headliner on records and radio, and in jazz clubs, wowing audiences with the utter fearlessness and freedom of his groundbreaking trumpet solos. His "scat" singing transformed vocal tradition and musicians studied his recordings to hear what a horn could do.

By the '50s, Armstrong was an established international celebrity—an icon to musicians and lovers of jazz—he was the first "super star" of jazz music, with a genial, infectiously optimistic presence wherever he appeared. He was fondly known as "Satchmo" (which was short for "Satchelmouth," referring to the size of his mouth) or "Pops." His death on July 6, 1971, was front-page news around the world, and more than 25,000 mourners filed past his coffin as he lay in state at the New York National Guard Armory. References: Smithsonian Gallery and Hyper Music

Around Monrovia
by Pat Ostrye
STATION SQUARE IS COMING!

It looks as if Station Square in Monrovia will finally become a reality, with the first phase of the development possibly getting off the ground before the end of the year, according to my latest issue of the Monrovia Insider, published by the Monrovia Chamber of Commerce. This will be the largest redevelopment project in Monrovia's history and has been in the planning since the mid-1990s, covering the rezoning, environmental and traffic studies and General Plan revisions, as well as a series of public meetings.

The 80-acre development is centered around the area of Myrtle Ave. and Duarte Rd. and will feature a future Gold Line light rail station plus renovation of the historic Monrovia Depot. Plans call for a two-building apartment complex of nearly 700 units, combined with 25,000 square feet of retail space and a 450,000-square-foot office building, with an adjacent parking garage. Also included in the planning will be open space and park land. What a great time for all of us "sidewalk superintendents" as the project unfolds!!

Along with the Monrovia Municipal Election on April 14th, there will also be a "changing of the guard" at the Monrovia Unified School District as Superintendent Dr. Louise Taylor steps into retirement after 29 years of

dedicated service to Monrovia's children and the community. "Celebrate Louise - A Taylor-Made Legacy" will take place on June 4th and include a keepsake Tribute Book, dedicated to Louise's achievements and friendships, for each guest. The net proceeds from the publication of the book will be donated to the Monrovia Schools Foundation. Debbie Collins and Kris Mariconda are co-chairs for the event, with invitations going out in April. For information on how you may get involved with the Tribute Book, call 626-471-2009.

Speaking of "changing of the guard", Mayor Rob Hammond's Farewell Dinner is scheduled for Friday, May 1st, with those invitations also in the mail shortly.

One more reminder: Time is running out, make your reservation for the annual gala luncheon sponsored by Quota International of Monrovia/Duarte, to be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Monrovia on April 8th. Net proceeds for this spectacular affair will go for scholarships and hearing-aids for deaf youngsters, aid to the deaf and abused women/children and generous donations to local community philanthropic projects. For information and reservations, Mary Ann Mayer, 359-8052, \$35 per person. Charlotte Schamadan is chairperson for the event. postrye@netzero.

Pasadena

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE TO BENEFIT FOOD PANTRY ECPAC'S FRIENDS IN DEED

The Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Area Churches (ECPAC) and participating member churches are inviting the public to a Good Friday Service April 10. The service will begin at noon on Friday at Knox Presbyterian Church at 225 S. Hill Ave. in Pasadena. This year's service offering will be dedicated to helping fill the shelves of ECPAC's Friends in Deed Food Pantry, which has been serving Pasadena's most vulnerable population for many years.

"Like the rest of Los Angeles County and the nation, the number of people we are serving has risen sharply as the economy has dropped," said ECPAC Executive Director Pat O'Reilly. "Since October we have met the needs of 800 low-income and homeless people per month, representing a 60% increase over last year. These growing numbers include young families, which is heartbreaking." Celebrating in this year's service are: Rev. Allison Mark, First United Methodist Church;

Rev. Matthew Colwell, Knox Presbyterian Church; Rev. George Van Alstine, Altadena Baptist Church, Rev. Ruth Sievert, Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church; Rev. Byron Smith, Calvary Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; Rev. Connie DeVaughn Larsen, Altadena Baptist Church and the Rev. Nicole Murray, Church of Truth.

The event is sponsored by ECPAC. If you would like more information of the April 10 service, or for more information on how to make a donation please call the Council at 818.797.2402.

ABOUT ECPAC ECPAC (The Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Area Churches) is a trusted community leader striving to reduce poverty and homelessness by providing hands-on service and advocacy. Founded in 1894 this non-profit church-and community-supported organization is located in Northwest Pasadena, and is committed to working on behalf of those who are most in need. We welcome donations of your time and financial support. Donations can be sent to ECPAC, P.O. Box 41125, Pasadena, CA 91114 Doing together what we cannot do alone.

Sierra Madre Civic Club Hosts Fiesta Party

Ole! Says Sierra Madre Civic Club, inviting you to a Mexican Fiesta, as they hold their annual luncheon and auction Saturday, April 18, at 11:30 a.m. This will take place in La Salle High School Auditorium, corner of W. Sierra Madre Blvd. and Michillinda Ave.

An afternoon of fun and excitement is promised by co-chairs Nancy Fox, Vickie Vernon, and Suzanne Decker. Highlighting the day is the auction with a variety of over 100 quality items, which can be won for only a nominal donation. Returning is Anita Thompson, auctioneer extraordinaire, who keeps the action moving at a fast pace and always with her great humor. There will also be a silent auction and a gorgeous money hat designed by Sheila Woehler that will pay a whopping \$250 to the lucky winner (a true Mexican hat dance!).

Darlene Crook and Marlene Enmark have planned a menu of delicious salads for the lunch. Carrying out the Fiesta theme throughout the auditorium will be bright decorations by Shirley Wolf and her decoration committee.

Tickets are \$20 each. For tickets and more information, contact Fox at (626) 355-8696. The



It will be a Mexican Fiesta when Sierra Madre's Civic Club holds its annual luncheon and auction on April 18th. Co-chairs l-r are: Nancy Fox, Vickie Vernon and Suzanne Decker

Fiesta will be the club's main fundraiser for the list of philanthropies voted by members. The annual largess will be donated in May as the club year comes to a close. -Phyllis Chapman

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www.mtnviewsnews.com

Sierra Madre Congregational Church presents...

Palm Sunday Community Concert



Saturday, April 4 and Sunday, April 5 at 4pm

Come, hear the modern oratorio that tells the passion of God's love for all people.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Service - Thursday, April 9 at 7PM.

Good Friday COMMUNITY SERVICE - Friday, April 10 at 7 PM

at Bethany Church of Sierra Madre with SMCC Pastor Paul Beck

Easter Sunday COMMUNITY SUNRISE SERVICE - April 12

at 6:30 AM in Memorial Park

Easter Sunday Memorial Services - 8, 9:30 and 11:15 AM

170 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre 626-355-3566

Pasadena Sister Cities Committee Sponsors Art Contest

"Your Path to Peace" is the theme of a student art contest sponsored by the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee.

Pasadena residents ages 13 to 18 are encouraged to submit original, two-dimensional works in oil, watercolor, pastels, pen and ink, charcoal, photography, mixed media or computer-generated art of no larger than 24 by 30 inches, including matting.

The deadline for submissions is April 15. The winning work, selected by the committee, will be forwarded to the Sister Cities International competition and the artist will receive prize money.

Pasadena Sister Cities is a volunteer organization with exchange programs in Armenia, China, Finland, Germany and Japan to help Pasadenans learn more about these countries' cultures.

For more information call (626) 744-4598 or visit www.pasadenasistercities.org.

Lecture Examines American Campaign Rhetoric

The Alliance Française de Pasadena presents a lunchtime lecture on the history and dynamics of American campaign rhetoric as seen through the eyes of notable contemporary and historical French commentators. Called "Rousseau, Tocqueville and American Populism," the lecture will be held at the Court of Appeals, 125 South Grand Avenue, Pasadena on April 21 at 11:30 A.M. A light lunch will be served following the presentation. The lecture is free for Alliance Française de Pasadena members, \$10:00 for non members.

Written and delivered by Pasadena resident Dr. Michael McLendon, the lecture analyzes the language and thought that underlies American political discourse. While much of today's electorate understands political speeches in terms of sound bites, there is in fact a grand tradition of themes and issues that are unique to American politics and reach far back into the nation's history.

A surprising feature of American campaign rhetoric is its durability. In the 19th Century, French social commentator Alexis de Tocqueville noted the young nation's infatuation with egalitarianism and its flip side, the electorate's disdain for sophisticated and cultured leaders. Eight generations later, why do we continue to respond to this theme? Why as a nation, are we suspicious of those who are more qualified than we are to run the country? If we understood the hidden assumptions behind these enduring ideas, would we still continue to be swayed by them?

Dr. Michael McLendon has been teaching political theory as Assistant Professor at California State University, Los Angeles since 2003. More info at www.afdepasadena.org.

The Alliance Française de Pasadena was founded in 1924. Its purpose is to encourage the study of the French language and culture and to promote understanding and friendship between the French people and others who share those interests.

Lake Gold Line Station Under Construction

Riders of the Metro Gold Line wanting to get on or off at Lake Avenue will be inconvenienced for the next few months as the city of Pasadena works to enhance the bridge.

A sign at the station informs riders that the first phase of the project would shut down the west entrance to the station. The project started Wednesday. "Passengers can use the east entrance of the station for access to and from the platform and street levels," it reads.

The west entrance can be seen already fenced off and the area along the freeway boarded up. The project will last several months the sign also says.

Lake Station is one of three stops along the Gold Line route located in the center median of the 210 freeway.

A half built clock tower on top of the east entrance



has, to this day, remained a mystery. The tower was said to be completed in 2004 and no explanation has ever been given as to why it was not. There is no indication the repairs include the clock.

The station also features public artwork by artist Pat Ward Williams. Embedded in glass panels along the east and west street level mezzanines are featured

life-size photographic portraits of people caught in the moment of everyday gestures.

As an interesting note, "the glass changes color as the viewer's position shifts, allowing the background material to generate subtly changing flashes of color and create an interaction with the audience," according to Metro Gold Line Construction Authority.

For more information call 1.800.commute.



Trinity Youth Help The Easter Bunny

Even the Easter Bunny needs a little help once in awhile. The youth at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Pasadena lent the Easter Bunny a helping hand this year. Donning their bunny ears, the Sunday school class got to work collecting donations from their congregation and assembled 27 Easter baskets to deliver to the families served by Friends In Deed.

Friends In Deed, an outreach agency of the Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Churches, strives to improve the quality of life for low income and homeless individuals and families. This church and community supported organization responds to the needs of the community by facilitating church and community partnerships to provide

coordinated and effective social services.

Friends In Deed is a long time mission partner of Trinity Presbyterian Church. Trinity families make weekly offerings of canned and dry goods that are donated to the Friends In Deed food pantry as well as monthly monetary love offerings. The Sunday school class always enjoys participating in the special programs throughout the year like the Easter basket drive or the "Back to School" backpack collection. It makes the holidays more special to know that they are working together to help make a difference in their own community.

If you would like more information, please call or email Eilley Brandlin.



Colorado Blvd. Mixed Use Development Discussed



By Dean Lee

As an informational item only, City Staff presented the council with preliminary plans for a two acre key project that includes restoring the historic Pasadena Manor Hotel to be used once again as a hotel. It had been a retirement home previously.

The project will also include converting single story businesses along Colorado Boulevard between Lake Ave. and Mentor Ave. into a multistory mixed-use development with 650 underground parking spaces. It will also include replacing the Bank of America building now on the corner as part of the project.

Staff said renovation of the hotel would be part of the first phase of the project. There would be a total of three phases they said. The eight story building is currently a designated landmark.

"When the renovation is complete

the hotel would be operational with a 114 guest rooms and five residential condominiums," staff said. "Temporary parking for the hotel would be accommodated with off site parking garages for the first phase."

During the second phase, a four-story addition would be added to the back of the hotel bringing the room count up to 156 according to the report. It would also include a single story retail component in the center of the site to temporarily house Bank of America.

There would also be a public plaza area and a garden next to the hotel as well as the underground parking.

The final phase would include a seven-story 188,000 square foot, office building at the corner of Colorado Blvd. and Lake Ave. BofA would occupy the ground floor staff said.

"One of the features of the

building would be a very large glazed two story atrium at the corner of Colorado and Lake in order to enhance the pedestrian activity and provide a landmark feature," staff said.

Between the hotel and new office building would be a series of two story shops something the council was leery of saying in the past second story retail has been unsuccessful. There would also be a series of pedestrian plazas and gardens on a raise platform accessible from Colorado.

The design would mix historic with traditional staff said. The council was also critical on the amount of concrete saying they would like more green space.

Council member Margaret McAustin said, "This looks to me like just a massive amount of concrete."

Council Member Sid Tyler said he was worried about traffic in the area, "There is a potential congestion there." He also wanted to know about how much the project would use water and electricity. The developers later assured him the project would be LEED certified, a green building rating system.



Elderly Pasadena Woman Found Murdered

Pasadena police responded to a call Wednesday night in the 100 block of Virginia Ave. where a 78-year-old man told them he had just killed his wife and was planning to kill himself.

According to police they found William Manson of Los Angeles at the scene in his car with several syringes next to him. He was taken to a local hospital and listed in serious condition. He will be arrested for murder police said.

The victim was identified as his wife Elinor Manson, 74.

Police said the daughter, who also lives at the location, came home to find her mother dead and father in the driveway. The 40-year-old daughter's name was not released.

She told police she approached her father after arriving home at which time he said he had just killed her mother. Police then found a body inside the home. Local televised reports say Elinor Manson had been strangled to death. Police said William Manson may have used his bare hands in the strangling.

The couple had been divorced for years police said. Initial reports indicate that he had become upset over a family issue, went to the home where the alleged killing took place.

No other information was available at press time.

Pet of The Week



Pumpkin, a beautiful, six month old, calico and tabby cat is looking for a new home. She is very loving, playful, and an all-around great kitten. She will be spayed before going to a new home but is available for adoption now!

The regular cat adoption fee is \$70 which includes the spay or neuter surgery, microchip, vaccinations, and a free follow-up health check at a participating vet.

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask about A246840 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave, Pasadena CA, 91105.

Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at www.phsspc.org

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4 SATURDAY	Lisa Finnie	
5 SUNDAY	Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
7 TUESDAY	Drink and Think Quiz Nite with Quizmaster Midge	8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
8 WEDNESDAY	Max Buda	
9 THURSDAY	The Michael McDaniel Joint PRESENTS	
10 FRIDAY	Jack Sheldon	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM
11 SATURDAY	Nine + One Band featuring Harry Smallenburg on Vibes	7:30 PM - 10:30 PM
	After Hours Rock n Rolla with Brant Bjork & the Bros and Fatsio Jetson	11:00 PM - 11:00 PM
12 SUNDAY	Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
14 TUESDAY	Drink and Think Quiz nite with Quizmaster Midge	8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
15 WEDNESDAY	The Fuzzy Logic Bopset	7:30 PM - 10:30 PM
16 THURSDAY	Gil Bernal Quartet	
17 FRIDAY	Mercy & the Merketts	9:00 PM - 9:00 PM
19 SUNDAY	Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
21 TUESDAY	Drink and Think Quiz nite with Quizmaster Midge	8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
22 WEDNESDAY	Song Sirens a collective of LA's female singer songwriters	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM
23 THURSDAY	Polychrome Jazz Ensemble	
24 FRIDAY	The Bennett Brandies Trio	
26 SUNDAY	Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
28 TUESDAY	Drink and Think Quiz Nite with Quizmaster Midge	8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
29 WEDNESDAY	The Jennifer Leitham Trio	

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Palm Sunday Worship April 5, 9:15 & 11:15 am
Sanctuary Maundy Thursday Service April 9, 7 pm
 Sanctuary Communion is celebrated as Christ's passion and death are remembered.
Quiet Afternoon Apart Good Friday April 10, 1 - 4:30 pm
 Christ Chapel (soup luncheon served at 12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall)
 Join in a contemplative afternoon to prepare for Resurrection Day.
Easter Sunday Sunrise Service April 12, 7 am
Lacy Park Easter Sunday Worship Service April 12, 9:15 & 11:15 am
 Sanctuary.
Community Easter Sunday Sunrise Service April 12, 7 am
 Lacy Park Youth Director Paul Blakesley preaches: "Tears Wiped Clean."
Easter Sunday Worship Service April 12, 9:15 & 11:15 am
 Sanctuary Rev. O'Grady preaches, "Not Intended for Death" Full choir and brass at both services, childcare and Sunday School provided throughout the morning.

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TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

Guadalajara Grill: Mariachis and Margarita's

Often I believe that I know how Christopher Columbus felt when he discovered America. If you have been reading this column in the past you know that I can get decidedly giddy when I find a restaurant that serves authentic ethnic food and makes the American tourist feel at home. My other pleasure and frustration is derived from those places that I bypass routinely and dismiss repeatedly until in a fit of wanderlust, I finally pull the car over and discover to my amazement a beautiful dining experience. Fortunately life's little discoveries keep this critic happily journeying down back roads, alleys and crowded streets. My buddy Roberto Ramirez the self proclaimed "King of Tequila" turned me on to the Guadalajara Grill in Baldwin Park for this week's adventure.

I have driven by it daily it seems, it is just off the 10 freeway and I am sure you have passed by it as well. The restaurant is thoughtfully spacious as I was struck with the obvious intention of the architects of being at a bull fight and the patrons being in the ring. It also offers a small bar and a stage that plays home to a mariachis band which perform nightly and for Sunday Brunch. There is also a patio for you al fresco diners.

The menu has many of the So Cal Traditional Dishes that you can find anywhere but those are a cut above here. My recommendation, treat yourself to something you might not traditionally order. I ordered the lunch special. It is Chamorro/Pork Hocks... that is a what, one would call a lamb shank, but instead it is pork for (\$11.95), plenty of meat and a bountiful portion of rice and beans. My guide for this tour Roberto, ordered the Molcajetes. What is that you may be asking? It's a traditional grinding bowl made of lava rock, you can have your choice of meats, but Roberto had the shrimp. It comes on bubbly jack cheese and is mixed with cactus, chili and onions and topped with a special sauce. Priced at a reasonable (\$14.99) to (\$18.99), accompanied with freshly made corn tortillas.

The crowd is Authentic as well, with many Mexican/American Families enjoying meals. They also offer a lunch time brunch buffet for (\$6.99) per person that looked good to me, and affordably priced for this pecuniary stretched critic. Kids under 9 eat for free Sunday through Thursday from 3 pm to 10 pm.

I my next trip I will try the Chili Verde at (\$9.99) and the Monterey Chicken for (\$10.99). A great family place. So don't drive by. Stop in and tell the owner Tony that Peter Dills sent you and you may just get of an expression of it is about time. As always restrictions apply. Guadalajara Grill 14610 Garvey Ave. Baldwin Park... (626) 357-8168

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Good Friday
 Stations of the cross noon
 The passion Liturgy 7 pm
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Caring For Your Companion

"I want to do whatever it takes doc, money's no object! Er, it ain't gonna be over a hunnert is it?"

Veterinary care has grown to allow for some pretty remarkable things for our furry friends. You can get a kidney transplant for your cat at U.C. Davis, there's a neurologist in Tustin who'll perform brain surgery, a group in west LA provides dialysis, your dog can go to Ventura for open heart surgery, "Your dog want's a new hip? How's Thursday?"

Yes, these are extravagant, big ticket items. Many are not indicated except for a select few patients, and even fewer clients who can afford them. As a whole, the level of veterinary care is increasing greatly even at the local level. The general care we provide is much greater than we did even 5 years ago. Your veterinarian has access to specialists online, and may provide in-house laboratories for blood and urine testing, digital radiology and ultrasound. Some provide advanced surgeries and medical treatments previously unavailable without traveling across the county. MRIs and CTs are now pretty common referrals.

Laparoscopy, thoracoscopy, flexible endoscopy, and arthroscopy allow for minimally invasive diagnoses and treatment. Adult stem cell therapy is opening up new methods of treating diseases [these cells are derived from your own pet for concentration and reintroduction into his problem areas like arthritic joints]. Anesthetic agents and monitors are getting better, safer, and more encompassing. Pain relief is a large part of a progressive veterinarian's agendas. Employing licensed technicians instead of off-the-street on-the-job training.

All these things benefit you and your companions, but they come at a cost. As examples: Equipment to

perform orthopedic surgery, >\$150,000; Ultrasound >\$40,000; Anesthetic monitors, as much as \$10,000 each; Digital radiology, \$120,000; Reference quality in-house laboratory, \$75,000; Equipment for laparoscopy, thoracoscopy, etc., \$50,000. There's also the required training and continuing education required for your veterinarian and staff, which is an ever-growing, on-going expense.

"Well, that's great you can do all those things, Doc. How am I supposed to pay for it. As you can see, the overhead for providing even adequate, let alone advanced veterinary care is staggering. Hence the price of proper veterinary care continues to rise. How can you prepare? One of the simplest is annual or semi-annual examinations. As with most things, preventative maintenance goes a long way. If we see your pet on a regular basis, we can often detect things from physical examination, lab tests, radiographs, or even what you tell us, that will allow for intervention and early treatment of conditions at far less expense, and with greater eventual outcome than if it progresses. For instance, routine dental cleaning is far less expensive and healthier than waiting until there's advanced disease requiring 17 extractions. Removing a tumor when it's small is cheaper, less painful, and safer than when it's grown to watermelon proportions. Detecting chronic kidney disease and doing little more than changing the diet can increase your pet's life 3 times longer than if it weren't detected and treated. Treating late detected end stage kidney failure is no fun for you, your pet, or me. That limp that comes up is better to manage early than after your companion has compensated for it by overloading the other

leg and tearing her cruciate ligament. Liver values increasing? Let's look into that further or at least try a special diet and supplement.

"But I've got 4 pets." Same applies for all. How is best to spread the cost? You can bring them in separately, one every 3 months. Too much hassle? Some clients prefer to "get it over with" in one day of wrangling and put the charges on a card so they can spread out the payment that way. Still others find the repeated trips aren't so bad and they return for any recommended bloodwork next month, radiographs the month after, dental treatment 3 months later, etc.

"Well, I can generally handle the routine stuff, but \$4000. For knee surgery would kill me!" There are some options here too. If your more disciplined than me, you can put away \$50-100.00 per month into a "cookie-jar" account for your pet. Use this only for emergencies or major health issues. The down side is this doesn't usually help much when your pet is young, not enough contributed. Dedicated credit card. This can be used like the account above, some of my clients even have the pet's picture on the card! Pet insurance is fast becoming almost a necessity. There are some pitfalls, and not all companies are created equal. Research them thoroughly and ask your Veterinarian for advice. Some companies limit the amount for a given procedure which may be sufficient in the plains of North Dakota, but will not nearly cover the real costs in LA. There may be time constraints before coverage, for instance, at least one company will not cover a cruciate injury until 1 year from your policy start date.

Be aware, your veterinarian wants what's best for your pet too. My mentor, a great veterinarian and human being told me that if you practice good medicine, you never need to worry about the bottom line. Yes, this is a business, but it's built upon trust and repeat contact. We will offer you the best available, that's our sworn duty as your companion's doctor. We can also understand limitations, and will work to be sure your pet gets the best you can provide.



As San Gabriel Valley nonprofit agencies strive to adjust to a decreasing pool of funds as result of the current economic climate, it is important that we, as a community, step up our support of their incredible work. Massive layoffs due to company closures and downsizings translate into more and more families needing a helping hand. This has simply added to the number of clients now calling, e-mailing and entering the doors of agencies, translating into an exponential increase in clients without a corresponding increase in funds to meet the needs.

Programs and services at these charitable organizations must operate year-round, virtually nonstop to address needs not met by government institutions, for-profit businesses or anyone else.

Although volunteers and donated items are appreciated and will always be needed, these contributions cannot be exchanged for phone service, rent, liability insurance or other expenses that must be covered on an ongoing basis. It is important for all volunteers to understand the importance of making some level of financial contribution, even if it's small.

You don't have to be wealthy to make a difference. You simply need a commitment and follow-through with whatever amount you're able to give. Anyone with any level of financial means can provide support. We extend a challenge to our readers to become actively involved by considering one or more of the following actions:

- 1) Convene a group of at least three

friends, co-workers, family members or other associates to plan a group activity to support a worthy cause and create some fun in the process;

- 2) Select a charitable organization to support for the upcoming Easter holiday or other approaching event;

- 3) Contact the nonprofit and ask if they have a Wish List with specific items they need or a Donor Program with preset giving categories: it is important that nonprofits receive what they actually need as opposed to what we simply wish to give, unless of course, it's cash;

- 4) Determine the amount of money to raise and how your group will raise it: the amount and fundraising approach will be dictated by the means and resources of the group, and finally;

- 5) Make the donation to the nonprofit in installments or in one lump sum.

Make it a way of life by repeating the process for the same nonprofit or another one of interest. And please, share your experience and results with us so that we can begin to document and report on how readers here in the foothills are responding to this worthy challenge

A Short Menu of Ideas

Fundraising ideas: stock transfers, yard sales, redeem recyclables, sell large or valuable items on e-bay* or in the Recycler

Other nonprofit activities for your group: volunteer for an upcoming event; purchase tickets to attend a major fundraising dinner

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The Senior *Spot*

By Bruce Lamarche

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

The TV now dominates the lives of most Americans. We turn it on and let it run, or should I say, "let it run our lives." Although it may seem like getting family together to watch a movie or a favorite show is "family time," think about the lack of interaction between those slumped on the couch. I know what you are saying, "My kids are grown and they have their own busy lives." We don't even have time to get together. Consider something I discovered as an alternative.

My wife and I have rediscovered the magic of Family Game Night. It's an old fashioned concept but it is very special. There are three generations of our family that meet at our one of our homes to play board and card games. We also play Charades. Some of the games are silly and start laughter that can't seem to stop. We include our six-year-old granddaughter by playing one of her games. Adults seem to end up laughing and having a good time with a game made for her age.

It seems that card games like Apples-to-Apples gets everyone being silly and laughing hysterically. This kind of fun relieves the pressures of the week for those working and creates a relaxing atmosphere for all ages. If you don't have children and grandchildren that live locally, think of your extended family... your special friends. The time spent together is very special and will bring you closer. Enjoy!

Bruce can be reached by phone-(626)335-3412 or e-mail: blamarche@verizon.net
This article is provided by Bruce Lamarche, a member of Society of Certified Senior Advisors, www.csa.us. Bruce's company, R & B Reverse Mortgage Services (Glendora) helps seniors make an informed decision about obtaining a reverse mortgage. www.LASeniorMortgage.com

Cinderella by Dorothy White

It had been one year since the royal wedding and all was not well at the palace. The prince had turned out to be a lazy lout who spent most of the time singing along (off key) with the karaoke machine at Old King Cole's. Even worse, the palace was heavily mortgaged. With no money for servants, Cinderella had to work harder than ever keeping the palace clean.

Then came the inevitable—foreclosure! Cinderella and the prince had only one option—to move back to her former home. Things had changed at the old place. Cinderella's step-mother had become interested in politics and spent her days at party headquarters stuffing envelopes, making telephone calls, and was even thinking about running for political office herself. The step-sisters, tall and well coordinated, had become star players on a women's basketball team known as the Rapid Rabbits. They had used some of the big bucks they were making for cosmetic surgery, a good hairdresser and a fashion consultant, and had become very pretty girls. Now they could be choosy about their dates. Cinderella might be content with a deadbeat prince with a shoe fetish, but the sisters dated only professional athletes.

As the step-sisters' appearances had improved, so had their dispositions. They sincerely sympathized with Cinderella and decided to do something to relieve her financial distress. Finding a job for Cinderella was no problem. With her housekeeping skills, she landed a job on TV demonstrating cleaning products. The prince was another matter. Finally, he was hired as a mascot for the Rapid Rabbits. Wearing a fluffy, white bunny suit, he greeted fans, posed for photos and passed out discount coupons for carrotburgers.

Now that the royal couple had a steady income, they were able to buy a new home, a charming little cottage, and there they lived happily ever after. The End

SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

FYI: Senior Stimulus Payments to Start in May

Retirees and other Social Security beneficiaries will get an extra \$250.00 per person from Uncle Sam, as part of the economic stimulus bill. The so-called senior payment--\$250.00 for individuals, \$500.00 for couples who both receive some Social Security benefit--will go to retirees, older veterans, SSI (Supplemental Security Income) beneficiaries, and people with disabilities. Recipients won't have to fill out a tax form nor do anything—unlike the stimulus rebate of 2008. The money will come the same way Social Security is received—either through direct deposit or a check in the mail.

Federal and state retirees who don't receive Social Security benefits also will qualify to receive the payment but may have to file 2009 tax returns to receive it.

For more information, check the SSA website.

~Helpful Hints~

Vinegar in the Outdoors- If your picnic cooler smells a little musty when you first pull it out for the summer; you don't want your food to pick up the odor. First, wash out the cooler well using dish washing liquid and warm water and let it dry. Then fill a small bowl with vinegar and put it in the cooler. Close the lid and leave it overnight. The next day, the odor will be gone and the cooler will be fresh as a daisy.

If you use a propane lantern when you go camping, you can make your wicks last longer and burn brighter with this trick. After you buy new wicks, soak them in undiluted white vinegar for several hours, and then let them dry completely. When you use them, you'll find that they not only don't burn out as fast but also give out more light.

Another Recipe of the Month:



Linguine with Spring Vegetables

- Ingredients:
- * Coarse salt and ground pepper
 - * 3/4 pound linguine
 - * 1 pound asparagus (tough ends removed), cut into 1-inch lengths
 - * 1 medium zucchini, halved lengthwise (quartered if large) and thinly sliced
 - * 4 ounces sugar snap peas (stem ends trimmed), halved
 - * ½ cup heavy cream
 - * 1 Tbs butter, cut into pieces
 - * 2 Tbs fresh tarragon leaves

Directions:
1- In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook pasta 4 minutes short of al dente; add asparagus, zucchini, and snap peas. Cook until vegetables are crisp-tender, about 3 minutes. Reserve ½ cup pasta water; drain pasta mixture, and set aside.

2- In the same pot, bring cream and butter to a simmer. Toss in pasta mixture and enough pasta water to create a thin sauce (it will thicken as it stands). Season with salt and pepper, and top with tarragon. (Serves 4)
Everyday Food

Happy Birthday!

April Birthdays: 4/5 Blanca Martinez, 4/6 Ken Anhalt, 4/15 Julia Gottesman and 4/28 Dorothy White



For Your Funny Bone

I was having a drink at a local restaurant with my friend Justin when he spotted an attractive woman sitting at the bar. After an hour of gathering his courage, he approached her and asked, "Would you mind if I chatted with you for a while?"

She responded by yelling at the top of her lungs, "No, I won't come over to your place tonight!" With everyone in the restaurant staring, Justin crept back to our table, puzzled and humiliated. A few minutes later, the woman walked over to us and apologized. "I'm sorry if I embarrassed you," she said, "but I'm a graduate student in psychology and I'm studying human reaction to embarrassing situations." At the top of his lungs Justin responded, "What do you mean, two hundred dollars?"
J. Smodish- RD

Quote: Jazz will endure as long as people hear it through their feet instead of their brains.
~ John Philip Sousa~

Activities:

Unless listed differently, all activities are at the Hart Memorial Park (Senior Center) 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre

Lunch Program: Monday- Friday at the Intervale Café -12:00 Noon-Call (626) 355-0256 to make your daily reservation. Suggested donation \$2.00 for seniors (60+) and \$3.75 for visitors.

Monday: Free strength Training Class with volunteer Lisa Brandlely 1:00-1:45

Tuesday: Bingo- 1:30PM- 3:30 PM .25c per card

Yoga: 5:30 PM- 7:00PM Instructor Andrea Walsh- \$6.50 for seniors (50 and over.)

Call 355-5278 for more information.

Wednesday: 1st & 3rd Wednesday-Community Lunch & Learn Program

Thursday: Game Day- 1:00PM- 3:30PM- Poker, UNO, Scrabble, Cribbage, Chess, Checkers, Backgammon, Pinochle... you name it.

Yoga: 5:00 PM- 6:30 PM \$6.50 for seniors (50 and over) Call 355-5278 for more information

Friday: Ping-Pong 1:30 PM

Saturday: Senior Club for those 55 and older- Brown bag lunch at 11:30AM Meeting at Noon- Bingo at 12:30 PM- only .25c per card

The Santa Anita Bowling Green Club will be having beginning lawn bowling lessons each Saturday morning starting at 10 AM. Anyone interested come by the park before 10 AM. For information call Gene at 626-351-5327. FREE!

Monthly Excursions:

*For reservations and further information call Susan Clifton at (626) 355-7394 or stop by and see her at the Hart Memorial Park House- 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM

April 16th- Palm Springs Follies
-SOLD OUT-If you have a ticket and have questions or if you would like to be on the waiting list if someone cancels, please call the Senior Desk at 626.355.7394.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic- Second Tuesday of each month 11:00 AM- Noon No appointment necessary

Financial Consulting- 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Hart Memorial Park House from 10:00AM- Noon. Please call (626) 355-7394 for an appointment.

NEW!!! Senior Stretch and Balance- A free class designed by volunteer instructor Teryl

Willis, for seniors to refresh the joints, soothe the spine, and improve balance. Come and join in some simple and gentle exercises, a little light yoga, and a bit of easy tai chi.

When and Where: Wednesday, March 4th at 11:00 AM at the Hart Memorial Park House/ Senior Center. Call 626-355-7394 for more information.

NEW!!! Wii Wednesdays- 1:00PM at the Hart Park House/Senior Center- You've seen it on television, come try it for yourself! It's a "virtual" game that's fun for everyone. Come experience Wii bowling, golf, tennis, baseball and boxing The unique control wand imitates how you actually release the ball or swing the club. No previous experience or skill required. It's great exercise and fun to boot!

Meals-on-Wheels:

Meals are delivered to homebound seniors by volunteer drivers through the YWCA Intervale Lunch Program M-F (with frozen meals for the weekend.) \$2.00 suggested donation per day. Call Susan Garcia at (626) 858-8382 for more information.



MEALS-ON-WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER MEALS TO OUR HOMEBOUND NEIGHBORS **ONCE A MONTH OR WEEKLY** Please contact Darlene Traxler at 626.355.0256.

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One Of A Kind:

Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them By Chris Bertrand

Exquisite Arcadia Estate Still Feels Like Home



Chris Bertrand



After living in several cities across the country, I feel I've learned how to hone in on houses that feel like home immediately. Over the years that's been in many different price brackets, but the principles remain the same in all. I felt this Arcadia property was one of those "real homes" immediately. A spectacular estate on a prestigious street that also instantly reaches out to feel like a real home.

Designer Robert Tong created this consummate elegant, yet functional and practical home, which was completed in 2006. Though it could easily be in Architectural Digest, with bells and whistles to delight the most sophisticated buyer, every room still feels livable.

The formal areas are well defined yet open, which allows for a free traffic flow for grand entertaining. A large niche on the far side of the living room might be perfect for a grand piano, or a bridge or game table overlooking the tranquil pool. Hand scraped hardwood flooring provides the unifying design element that beautifully ties the public rooms together.

The expansive great room steps down from the foyer, again giving definition but not disturbing the traffic flow when the house is full of guests. The area is divided into three functional spaces, with a comfortable media seating area, generous informal dining area, and of course the kitchen.

I can only describe the kitchen as eye-popping. Yes, it has professional quality Viking appliances, as one might expect, but another layer of gorgeous yet functional beauty is overlaid. A

soft fern hue gently envelops the room while marrying the colors to the outside landscape.

The two counter surfaces, one a honed black stone, and the other a polished granite coexist harmoniously, and complement the white custom cabinetry with a hand applied accent color and the contrasting center island cabinetry. The breakfast bar seating allows family members or guests to be close to the cook while staying out of the fray. Outside the family room and dining room is my favorite area of the home, the slate-floored loggia. A firepit with gas service wards off the chill of the evening, and dual ceiling fans create a breeze on the toasty summer days, extending the use of this beautiful area. Those who aren't hopping in the Roman pool or spa can enjoy the swimmers' company while relaxing nearby in this shaded area. A second floor balcony in the master suite is located above, for a sunny peaceful cup of coffee in the mornings. Both locations enjoy the delightful gurgle of a beautiful fountain nearby.

The main floor offers a bedroom suite, perfect for guests or those needing single level living. Upstairs three more bedrooms include a separate wing that houses the master bedroom, an elegant private bath and a sumptuous office. The master suite boasts a Hollywood-worthy closet room with custom appointments with ample space for an extensive wardrobe and Imelda's shoes.

The stunning guest house or pool house is constructed of the same quality with similar amenities to the main house. A

fireplace creates a wonderful gathering place, and the bath provides a separate outside entrance so pool users don't need to track wet feet through the rest of this building, and offering extra privacy.

I do love a curving street and this area of Arcadia, just south of Foothill abounds with them, affording a slowly unfolding landscape. The situation of this home provides a gracious street presence, as well as generous off street parking for guests. Several areas of the homesite also enjoy filtered foothill and mountain views.

The highly rated Arcadia Unified School District is a draw for families with school age children while easy freeway access is always a plus.

All in all, a "10" in my book. Lots of WOW like gorgeous wrought iron work, elegant stone work, beamed cathedral ceilings lit by artfully placed clerestory windows, artisan craftsmanship and much more... generously sprinkled with practicality and insightful design without opulence. For more information about this home, please visit www.1619RodeoRoad.com or contact the listing agent, Fred Ashkar of ReMax Premier Properties at Fred@FredAshkar.com or 818-681-4975.

Have an idea for a building, garden or person to feature in this column? Contact Chris at Chris@BertrandOnline.com



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It's Time To Give Shade Plants A Closer Look - you may be surprised at what you see!

It always amazes me to hear people say that the choices are limited when it comes to shade plants. The assumption is that the only shade plants available to them are agapanthus, azaleas and camillias. Well, the next time you have a little

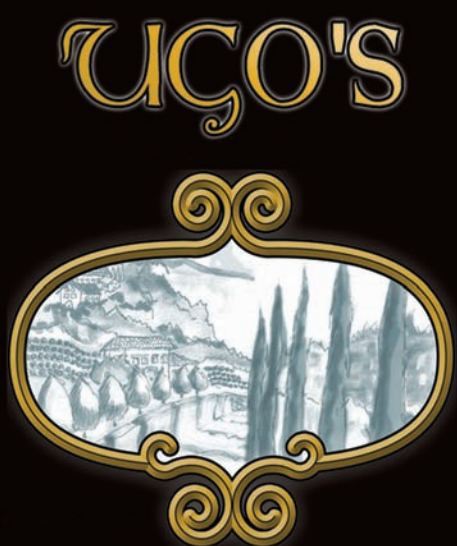
next doors shrubs (or tree limbs) on your side, you have created a "sun" area rather than a shade area, so evaluate the location well before making any plant purchases. In time, as these very same shrubs (next door) start to grow again, your plants will have had an opportunity to root and develop. It is necessary, however, to continue to cut back any shrubs or

limbs that create more shade than your plants can tolerate. Continue to supply your shady areas with filtered light and your shade plants will thrive.

Here are just a few of very reliable and hardy shade plants:

Abutilon (Chinese Lantern): comes in white, yellow (pale/deep) pink, orange and ruby red. Filtered light. Upright and arching branches. Leaves look similar to maple. Flowers are delightful, blooms practically all year. Also excellent container plant.
Virburnum (snowball plant): It's easy to walk past this one. Void of blooms, it looks quite dull, but don't be fooled! Out of the container and settled in to it's chosen spot, it starts to show it's true self. Once those blooms appear, the "entire" plant seems transformed. The white (balls) flowers, which appear in spring, are very similar to hydrangea. The plant is slow to get established, but is worth the wait. Needs space as it can get up to 10 ft high, with an 8ft spread. Looks wonderful in flower arrangements. Deciduous. Foliage is very attractive in autumn with it's tinge of red/gold (some have only the green leaf with no fall colour, so make sure you pick the one you really want.)
Japanese anemone: Perennial. Wonderful outdoors in shade/filtered light. Some can get quite tall (to 4ft), depending on your choice. Come in white, pink and deep rose colour. Excellent in flower arrangements.
Helleborus: Stunning flowers and very attractive foliage. Blooms from winter to spring. Colour range from white, to pink and deep rose pink.

Plant en masse. Grows roughly to 2'
Brunfelsia (yesterday-today-tomorrow): Blooms change colour; purple (yesterday), lavender (today), white (tomorrow). You definitely need to plant it in filtered light, it will not fair well if you plant it in a sunny spot! It is very showy when in bloom, which is in spring and early summer. It can get to 10', but is very easy to maintain at your preferred height. Great container plant, must have well drained soil.
Rhamnus: One of my personal favourites! If you are partial to variegated plants, and I am, you will love this one. Evergreen, very attractive small, pointed leaves, with clusters of insignificant flowers. Use as background plant. Works wonderful with dark greens, whites and reds. Doesn't get bigger than 4'. Used more in flower arrangements, so it's a little treasure for your cutting garden.
Because I am running out of space, all I can do is list some other hardy shade plants that I use often in my landscape designs.
Magnolia loebneri "Dr. Merrill", Japanese maple, coprosma (lots of interesting foliage choices), Daphne, Japanese aralia, fuchsia, hydrange, duranta, Heuchera (wide selection), shade geraniums (Johnson's blue is excellent), bergenia, coleus, campanula.....
There are sooo many shade plants available to you (I have mentioned but a few). Take the time to visit a well-stocked nursery and have fun while you are there!



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Friday, April 10, - 7 pm - Good Friday - Pastor Paul Beck, SMCC

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