



YELLOW FLAG ALERT

The City of Sierra Madre has issued a Yellow Flag Alert effective immediately. The LAPWD has issued a Phase 1 Mudflow Forecast. A Phase 1 indicates that small isolated debris and mudflows are possible at specific locations.

Streets may be flooded or blocked by debris. Woodland Drive, Skyland Drive, and other streets may be closed due to blockage and cleanup efforts. Parking restrictions are in effect in the Upper and Lower Canyon during Yellow or Red Flag alerts. Vehicles may be towed at owner's expense.

AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

Toyota Deal For Californians Page 3

PASADENA

E-Policing

Page 4

PUBLIC SAFETY

FOCUS: Jackie Knowles Page 5

Education & Youth:
PUSD ADDRESSES DROPOUT
RATE

Page 6

OPINION:

LEFT TURN/RIGHT TURN
HAYES/WELBORN

Page 8

HAIL HAMILTON
STUART TOLCHIN

Page 9

Peter Dills: Table For Two
Page 7

WORLD AROUND US

BOB EKLUND: Looking Up
ONLINE:

Page 11

The Good Life

Page 12

ONE OF A KIND

A Home With
Private Space
For Everyone

Page 13

Mountain Views News

Where Your
Community News Comes First

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2010

VOLUME 4 NO. 8

2010 Sierra Madre Municipal Election



SIERRA MADRE CAMPAIGN COVERAGE

CORRECTION:



In our last edition, the name of one candidate, Pat Alcorn, was inadvertently omitted. Mrs. Alcorn is indeed running for City Council and will be profiled on April 3rd. Our apologies to Pat and her campaign.

The revised calendar is below. *The Editor*

Eminent Domain Measure - Yes Or No?

By Susan Henderson

On the April 13, 2010 municipal ballot, voters will have the chance to approve or reject an Ordinance which would prohibit the city from exercising the power of eminent domain for private purposes. Voter approval will fortify City Ordinance 1304 which was passed unanimously by the Council just a few weeks ago. **What is eminent domain?**

The most common use of eminent domain is when the government, federal, state or local, seize private property by force for essential public uses such as schools, fire stations, roads, and to eliminate threats to public health and safety. The public generally accepts such necessity for legitimate public uses. It is an activity that is protected by the 5th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which prohibits the taking of private property, "except for public use".

The second most commonly recognized use of eminent domain that is the basis for widespread concern in this state, is when the local Redevelopment Agency turns over land to another private entity for their private financial gain. Since 1954 the U.S. Supreme Court has allowed expansion of the meaning of public use to include economic development, but Sierra Madre included a prohibition against such use in its Redevelopment Agency Plan.

Traditional examples of "public uses" for which the government might exercise its power of eminent domain include such things as schools, roads, libraries, police stations, fire stations and similar public uses.

In 2008, California Voters passed handily Prop 99 which "Prohibits state and local governments from acquiring an owner-occupied residence for the purpose of conveying it to another person, with certain listed exceptions. Proposition 99 did not change current rules regarding use of eminent domain for businesses.

The California Constitution was then amended after the passage to include:

(b) The State and local governments are prohibited from acquiring by eminent domain

an owner-occupied residence for the purpose of conveying it to a private person.

(c) Subdivision (b) of this section does not apply when State or local government exercises the power of eminent domain for the purpose of protecting public health and safety; preventing serious, repeated criminal activity; responding to an emergency; or remedying environmental contamination that poses a threat to public health and safety.

(d) Subdivision (b) of this section does not apply when State or local government exercises the power of eminent domain for the purpose of acquiring private property for a public work or improvement.

It appears that Proposition 99 already covers the same actions that the Sierra Madre Ordinance would impact. However, according to experts on the subject, eminent domain would still be allowed if the purpose is related to public health and safety, preventing serious, repeated criminal activity, responding to an emergency, remedying hazardous environmental contamination, or for a public work or improvement. If one of these purposes cannot be shown, then Proposition 99 would prohibit use of eminent domain.

On the other hand, Property rights analyst Timothy Sandefur, says that, "The fact is that Prop. 99 would not protect anyone in California from eminent domain abuse. It would not apply at all to small businesses, which are the most common victims of eminent domain. It would not protect people living in apartments at all. It would not protect farms, or churches. It would only protect "owner occupied residences." And in fact, it would not even protect them, because the small print in the initiative eliminates such protections in almost every case of eminent domain abuse."

According to the California Eminent Domain Law Group, APC, It should be noted, that the term "public use" has been interpreted very broadly by the Courts. The project need not be actually open to the public to constitute a public use. Instead, generally only a public benefit is required. Elimination of

blight through redevelopment projects, for example, has been held by the Courts to constitute a public benefit which satisfies the "public use" requirement of the Federal and State Constitutions. Recent cases have even allowed the use of eminent domain for the sole purpose of increasing tax revenues. This is true even though the property might be transferred to a private developer and may never be open to the general public.

It would appear then, given the lack of teeth in the state's Constitutional change that even if the local measure passes, it would be for naught.

Why the Sierra Madre measure is even on the ballot is widely debated in town, many suggesting that putting it on the ballot amounts to political positioning and grandstanding by Mayor Mary Ann MacGillivray who brought the matter before the council, especially since there is already a Sierra Madre Redevelopment Agency prohibition against it and a California Constitutional amendment against taking private property for personal use already exists.

REVISED MV NEWS ELECTION COVERAGE

Next Week: Incumbent

Don Watts

March 13th

Incumbent Joe Mosca

March 20th

Candidates

John Crawford/Bill Tice

March 27th

Candidate Nancy Walsh

April 3rd

Candidate Pat Alcorn

April 10th

Candidate Josh Moran

IMPORTANT DATES:

(Per the City Clerk)

March 15-April 6

Voters May Request

Vote-by-Mail Ballots with

Regular Applications

March 23rd

Last Day to Mail Sample

Ballots and Polling Place

Notices

March 29th Last Day to

Register to Vote

TBA Last Day To Return

Vote By Mail Ballots

APRIL 13, 2010

ELECTION DAY

Honoring 75 Years Of Service



Mayor Mary Ann MacGillivray reads a proclamation from the City of Sierra Madre honoring 75 years of outstanding community service by the Sierra Madre Veterans Of Foreign Wars Post 3208. The group operates under the mantra, "Honoring The Dead By Serving The Living." Upon receipt of the proclamation, the VFW made contributions to the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Fighters and the Sierra Madre Police Department.

Emergency Radio Station Gets Project Manager - Green Light

The Sierra Madre City Council approved the appointment of Hank Landsberg as the Project Manager for the new Sierra Madre Emergency Radio Station, AM 1630. In addition, the council agreed to advance the \$14,672 it committed to the project in order to begin construction. Through the joint efforts of the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club and The Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council, community wide fundraising has raised close to \$8,000 to date. Additional fundrai

The project was originally slated to cost over \$50,000, however, Landsberg, working with Management Analyst James Carlson, was able to revise the proposal submitted by an outside firm and reduce the costs by approximately \$25,000.

AM1630 will be a TIS radio station that will provide emergency information during wildfires, floods and other disasters.

Residential Canyon Zone Meeting Held

By Dean Lee

Although it was billed as a joint meeting between the City Council, the Canyon Zone Community and Planning Commission only a few members of each showed up to Monday night's Canyon Community Meeting, with the exception of the all the CZC members who ran the meeting. The point of the get-together was public feedback said John Herrmann who chairs the committee.

Council Member John Buchanan, one of two council members to show up, explained having an official agenda was a precaution in case the whole council or planning commission came. Mayor MaryAnn MacGillivray also attended the meeting.

Herrmann gave a quick overview of issues in the canyon citing everything from light pollution to noise to trees. He also mentioned

Claims of Unique Sierra Madre Victory Misstated

While the residents of Sierra Madre can rejoice at the reduction of the required Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers that were assigned to Sierra Madre (138 new housing units by 2014), it appears that how that reduction came about has been misstated. At Tuesday's council meeting, Mayor Mary Ann MacGillivray credited the boycott of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) by she and Councilmember Watts as being the catalyst. However, according to officials at SCAG, including Sharon Neely, Director of Legislation, every city that requested a reduction and justified it according to the new guidelines submitted by SCAG was granted a reduction.

City Manager Elaine Aguilar acknowledged that the city did indeed quantify a reduction based upon the information that SCAG distributed to all cities disputing the allocation. It is not clear whether (cont. on page 3) or not

building on slopes along with all the other hot button issue such as overdevelopment.

"We want to examine just how much light pollution we get in the canyon, and whether it's feasible to limit the amount of light given off at certain late hours."

He also said the committee wanted to look at noise standards from both construction and homeownership. They also wanted to see a limit to staging and storage on the public right-a-way.

"We need to get those builders off the streets quickly at the critical rush hour," he said. "We have to deal with cement mixers and that sort of thing as it relates to traffic flow."

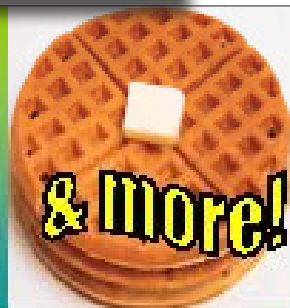
During the pubic question and answer period some residents said the new zoning guidelines were hard to follow. After one resident's suggestion, Development Services Director Danny Castro said they would put a comparison chart of the (continued on page 2)



Coffee!



Deli



& more!

Enjoy your coffee
without rain
hassles!
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Niko's friends
Coffee - Deli
900 Valley View Ave, Pasadena, 91107
626-510-6151 • M-F: 7-6, S: 8:30-1:30,
Closed Sunday

The Place To Be Is Santa Anita Park SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 12 NOON



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Santa Anita Wall Clock,
one of the best
collectibles ever.



See racing's biggest stars in
the \$750,000 Big 'Cap.

Presented by
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Special early first race post 12 Noon

285 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007 • 626-574-RACE



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coming to the U.S.

Weather Wise



5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon:	Showers	Hi 60s	Lows 50s
Tues:	Rain	Hi 60s	Lows 50s
Wed:	Rain	Hi 60s	Lows 50s
Thur:	Rain	Hi 60s	Lows 50s
Fri:	Rain	Hi 60s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

March Events In Sierra Madre

SM Chamber of Commerce Candidate Forum

City Council Chambers
Monday, March 8, 2010

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce is pleased to host a City Council Candidate Forum. All seven candidates have been invited to participate. The Forum will be moderated by the League of Women Voters, Pasadena Area, which will provide a moderator, timekeeper and question sorters, all of whom will be non-residents of Sierra Madre.

Sierra Madre Woman's Club Pre-Election Chamber Mixer

Essick House 550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Thursday, March 11, 2010 5:00 pm

Our annual March Chamber Mixer offers every business person and resident, in 2010, the opportunity to meet and greet our City Election Candidates. With some of the best (if not the best) food at a mixer prepared by the members of the SMWC, this is the "Must-go-to" mixer of the year. Come, bring friends and family and meet the candidates one-on-one. Surprises and Door prizes! Contact: Mary Carney 626-355-6225

Kiwanis Candidates Forum

Masonic Temple 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Tuesday, March 16, 2010 12:00 Noon

The Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club will sponsor their bi-annual Candidates Forum at noon. The event is free and open to the public. Lunch will be served. Cost for lunch only - \$10.00. Reservations required. Contact Clem Bartolai at 355-0757.

Travelers and Collectors Speaker Series

Sierra Madre Library's monthly "armchair travelers" series continues on Friday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m., with "Passage to Panama," presented by John and Marie Meursinge. Join the Meursinges as they travel the Intercoastal waterway from Fort Lauderdale to Miami, where they board the cruise ship Regatta for its journey to Key West and Cartagena in Columbia. Follow their day-long transit through the engineering miracle known as the Panama Canal, and on to Costa Rica, Puerto Chiapas, Huatulco, Acapulco, Cabo San Lucas, and finally home to Los Angeles.

Travelers and Collectors is held the second Friday of the month, February through May, at 7:30 p.m., in the Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. All programs are free and open to the public. A schedule is available at the Library Service Desk, and can also be found on the Library website, www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us. Travelers and Collectors is sponsored by the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library. For more information please call Catriona Shafer at (626) 355-7186.



Mount Wilson Trail Race Registration Forms Available

Registration forms for the 44th running of the Sierra Madre Mount Wilson Trail Race are now available. Forms can be picked up at the Community Recreation Center, Library, City Hall and Chamber of Commerce or downloaded from the newly revamped Mount Wilson Trail Race website (www.mountwilsontrailrace.com).

The race will be held Saturday, May 29, 2010 beginning at 7:30 am with the annual Pasta Feed, food provided by Café 322, held the night before in Kersting Court from 5:30-7:00 pm. Race day events include the 5th annual Kids Race, the 5th annual Kids Art Show, and the post-race Beer Garden.

This year's honorary Race Starter is Sierra Madre Library Associate Librarian, Debbie Henderson, who personifies the rich history of Sierra Madre. Debbie's countless hours of archival research and knowledge of historical information assisted the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society and Author Michele Zack in the creation of Southern California Story: Seeking the Better Life in Sierra Madre. Both parties feel that without her expertise this book would not have been possible.

Sierra Madre Spring Lap Swim Season

The Spring Lap Swim season at the Sierra Madre Aquatic Center will begin March 15 and run through June 13. The lap swim schedule is as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12:00pm-2:00pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 7:00pm-9:00pm. The Spring Lap Swim season pass is \$100 per person, there will be no daily admissions. Registration for the Spring Lap Swim can be done at the Community and Personnel Services Office, located at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. For more information call 626-355-5278.

2010 Wistaria Festival

Downtown Sierra Madre
Sunday, March 14, 2010 9:00 am

Festival includes more than 150 crafters, Live Music Venues all day, Childrens' Activities & Food Court in Memorial Park. More details coming soon..check www.WistariaFestival.com for more information

Tiffany or Bill 626-355-5111

Huck Finn Fishing Derby and Campout

Friday, March 26, 2010 - Sunday, March 28, 2010

The Community and Personnel Services Department will be hosting the Huck Finn Fishing Derby and Campout. The campout will be on Friday, March 26, the fishing derby will be held on the morning of Saturday, March 27, and family fishing will be on Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday, March 28. Please contact the Community and Personnel Services Department in February for event information and how to register for the campout. Adam Matsumoto

626-355-5278 amatsumoto@cityofsierramadre.com

PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOVERNING BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joint Meeting with Sierra Madre City Council

March 2, 2010
5:00 P.M.

Sierra Madre Middle School
160 N. Canon Avenue
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

District Budget Update – *Edwin Diaz, Superintendent, and Dr. John Pappalardo, Chief of Finance*

Measure TT Update – *Stephen Brinkman, Chief of Facilities*

City's "Ready, Set, Go" Program Update

City Youth Co-Ed Intramural Program Update

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/MATTERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Members of the public have a right to address the Board concerning any item scheduled for consideration at a special board meeting. All speakers are allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes; however, at the Board's discretion, if the time to accommodate all speakers exceeds thirty (30) minutes, the time may be reduced to two (2) minutes per speaker.

Do You Shake and Shimmer When You Speak?

At the March 2 meeting of the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club, club member Joe Pergola will talk about the Toastmasters International organization. The Toastmasters provide a venue where members can become comfortable with public speaking. "Do you shake and shimmer when speaking to groups of people? Fear not, there are proven ways of becoming a better public speaker," and Joe will describe and demonstrate them.

The meeting will be Tuesday, March 2 at noon at the Masonic Temple, 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. The public is invited. Lunch will be served. The cost is \$11 per person; reservations and exact change are required. For reservations, please contact Susan Henderson at 355-0728 no later than noon the preceding Monday.

Live from Burger Continental The Harvey Hyde Show

535 So. Lake Ave. Pasadena (626) 792 - 6634

Every Thursday 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Hard-hitting, High impact sports talk radio
KSHP Las Vegas - 1400 AM

Sierra Madre Coordinating Council

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 4th at 12:00 p.m. The 15 minute monthly presentation will be presented by San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District & Water Conservation Awareness.

Don't forget to use the master calendar located at <http://www.sierramadrecalendar.info>. To have your event information included on the calendar, please email info@sierramadrenews.net.

Arcadia

GOLD LINE OPEN HOUSE MARCH 23

In anticipation of a June 2010 groundbreaking, the Foothill Extension Construction Authority is hosting an open house in Arcadia to update the community on the Gold Line construction schedule, station plans, art and more. The Open House will offer multiple stations for one-on-one conversations between project representatives and the public. No formal presentation is planned so you can arrive anytime between 5:30 and 7:30pm on Tuesday, March 23 at the Sunset Room at the Santa Anita Golf Course (405 South Santa Anita Avenue).

THE ARCADIA POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL PRESENT A "DON'T BE A VICTIM" CRIME PREVENTION/SAFETY TALK

March 4 at 6:30pm at the Arcadia Public Library. This event is free and will provide valuable information about crime prevention and local trends. There will be an opportunity for members of the audience to ask questions.

Pasadena/Altadena

Liberty Tax Waives Tax Prep Fees for Service Professionals During Annual "Appreciation Days" Promotion

It's time again for Liberty Tax Service's annual "Appreciation Days." Since 2000, Liberty Tax has offered free tax preparation for service professionals who are first-time customers during its "Appreciation Days." Each week in March, a select group is honored at participating Liberty Tax offices throughout the United States.

"So many service professionals really make a difference in the quality of life of their communities as unsung heroes for the jobs they do every day," said Stacey Park, Owner, of Liberty Tax Service. "We salute them with free tax help and preparation."

Here's the 2010 Liberty Tax "Appreciation Day" schedule:

March 1-March 7	Teachers and School Employees
March 8-March 14	Police and Firefighters
March 15-March 21	Nurses, EMTs, Hospital Workers
March 22-March 28	Military and Veterans
March 29-April 4	Volunteers and Non-Profits

About Liberty Tax Service

Liberty Tax Service provides computerized income tax preparation, electronic filing, refund loans, and online filing through eSmart Tax. Each office offers customers audit assistance, a money back guarantee, and free tax return checking. The Liberty Tax Service franchise opportunity is #9 on the fastest growing franchises list of the 2010 Entrepreneur "Franchise 500."

Wistaria Thrift Shop Annual Spring Sale

Friday and Saturday
March 5 and March 6, 2010
9:00am to 3:00pm

**Essick House and
Wistaria Thrift Shop**
550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
(626) 355-7739

*Thrift Shop will be closed the week prior to the sale.
Proceeds benefit Sierra Madre Woman's Club Charities*

CANYON (cont. from page 1) proposed changes on the city's website.

Most of the meeting focused on the unique nature of the canyon as it applies to a revised draft of the zoning provisions and objectives developed for Residential Canyon Zone designation. The full text is online.

The meeting came down to new vs. old development and what was appropriate. Castro said that can be subjective citing examples of both. Building massing, height limitations, property line setbacks, square footage all came up.

"I do live next to one of these new houses that was built," said long time resident Shirley Moore. "I do think it's a

beautiful house, but from my perspective too large for the canyon."

Moore said there is now only a five foot setback, "there is literally only five feet between our houses," she said. "He can see inside of my house through the skylight." Moore said these new homes need space between them suggesting it was also a fire hazard.

Buchanan said after the meeting that most of the focus was on the lower canyon adding that he would like to see more residents from the upper canyon show up. The provisions cover both.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 22 at 7 p.m. at the Recreation Center.

REMEMBRANCE

EDWARD CARL HAGEROTT
November 14, 1938 - January 16, 2010

Ed Hagerott passed away on January 16, 2010 at his home in Sierra Madre after a brave six-month battle against lung cancer. Ed was a resident of Sierra Madre since 1972 and, since his retirement in 2004, enjoyed his daily walks around town.

Ed was born in Bismarck, North Dakota and raised in nearby Mandan, where he developed his lifelong passions of fishing, hunting and the outdoors. He left North Dakota after high school, but the state never left his heart and was the source of many of his fondest memories. Ed enjoyed traveling in his retirement years, especially a cruise and land tour to Alaska, frequent trips to his beloved Lake Tahoe, and many trips "home" to North Dakota.

Ed was an optical design engineer and spent most of his professional career working in Southern California. He began his career at Hughes Aircraft in the early 1960s working on the Surveyor Program (robotic spacecraft for the moon to gather data in anticipation of a moon landing). He retired from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 2004 and was very proud of his work on the cameras for the Mars Exploration



Rovers. He liked to say "I began my career on the Moon and ended my career on Mars."

But more important to Ed than his work was his family. Ed was a devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Rosemary, his son, Ed Jr. (Diana), his daughter, Katherine, his brother Bob (Peggy), his sister, Margie (Dick Keddy), and numerous cousins, nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his parents and brother, Rev. Donald Hagerott.

Services were held at St. Rita Catholic Church on January 21 and interment followed at Sierra Madre Pioneer Cemetery.

Sierra Madre

ROBERT SMITH JOINS FIRE SAFE COUNCIL STAFF



Robert Smith has joined the FSC as its new Facilitator. He was assigned the role in December and has spent the last two months evaluating and reviewing the SMFSC and its operations from an internal, community

and governing body standpoint. From these evaluations I recommended several community programs and initiatives to the board which have been since endorsed by the California Fire safe council and the Sierra Madre Fire Department.

The initiatives he will be focusing on include:

- Increased Community Outreach
- Providing Fire Education Programs for the Public
- Running community and school education programs and awareness competitions

- Running Homeowner Fire Safe competitions and education.

With the support of the Sierra Madre Fire Department the FSC will useful resources and education initiatives for the communities of Sierra Madre, Arcadia and Hastings Ranch.

For more information on the Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council and its activities, go to: www.smfiresafe.com

March Fire Safe Council - Education Meeting Monday March 1st 2010 - 7pm - Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers

Guest Speaker Bob Clark - Native Fire Safe Landscaping
The New SMFSC Advisory Board
Chipper Program is a GO!
Special Guest will speak on Sierra Madre's Emergency Organization

Jerry Brown Forges Deal With Toyota to Help Consumers While Recalled Vehicles Are Repaired

Los Angeles-Attorney General Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown Jr. announced Friday that his office has reached an agreement with Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. to provide California Toyota owners with at-home pickup and vehicle return and cost-free alternative transportation while their recalled vehicles are being repaired.

"This agreement goes a long way towards easing the burden caused by Toyota's massive recall," Brown said. "It will now be much easier for Toyota owners to get to work and take their kids to school while critical safety repairs are made on their cars."

Under the terms of today's agreement, Toyota will provide owners of recalled vehicles the following services:

- Pick-up and return of vehicles by the dealership;
- Transportation to the dealership and/or to the owner's place of work;
- Alternative transportation, such as a rental car, loaner vehicle or taxi reimbursement for a reasonable period that the customer is unable or unwilling to use his or her car; and
- Expedited scheduling for repair services.

These services will be provided by Toyota through the dealers at no cost to either the owners or the dealer.

The following Toyota vehicle recalls are covered by today's agreement:

- September 29, 2009 for floormat

- entrapment;
- January 21, 2010 for sticking accelerator pedals;
- February 8, 2010 for anti-lock brake system issues; and
- February 12, 2010 for drive-shaft failure.

The following vehicles are involved in the recent Toyota and Lexus vehicle recalls: 2005-2010 Avalon, 2007-2010 Camry, 2009-2010 Corolla, 2007-2010 ES 350, 2008-2010 Highlander, 2006-2010 IS 250 and IS350, 2009-2010 Matrix, 2004-2009 Prius, 2010 Prius, 2009-2010 RAV4, 2008-2010 Sequoia, 2005-2010 Tacoma, 2007-2010 Tundra, 2009-2010 VENZA, and 2010 HS 250h.

More information on the specific vehicles affected by the recalls can be found at www.nhtsa.dot.gov and www.toyota.com/recall.

Californians are encouraged to contact their local Toyota and Lexus dealers if they believe they are eligible for these accommodations. Consumers can also contact Toyota's customer service center at 1-800-331-4331 or Lexus at 1-800-255-3987.

This agreement will remain in place until all Toyota vehicles subject to the recall have been repaired. If additional safety recalls arise, an extension of this agreement or other appropriate provisions will be pursued.

Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. is based in Torrance, CA.

Duarte

Duarte Town Hall Meeting March 3rd On Youth & Family Master Plan

What are the most important issues affecting youth and families in the Duarte community? That will be the focus of a Town Hall meeting Wednesday, March 3, hosted by the Duarte Youth and Family Master Plan community outreach task group. The community is invited to share ideas and comments on issues such as recreation, mental health services, public safety and other topics at the meeting to be held at 7 p.m. at the Duarte Senior Center, 1610 Huntington Dr. Child care will be available.

A volunteer 27-member Advisory Committee to the Duarte City Council is

working to develop a measurable action plan that will guide the City of Duarte, the Duarte Unified School District, community organizations, and others over the next five to ten years regarding youth and family programs, services, and facilities. The committee is comprised of a cross-section of the community including parents, teens, educators, child development professionals and others.

Plans are to present a completed action plan to the Duarte City Council by July 2010. It will include action steps, benchmarks and timetables for meeting the goals of the plan. For more information, call the City of Duarte at (626) 357-7931.

LWW 20 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

League of Women Voters Pasadena Area presents:

Access to Impact

Using Open Government to Create Change

Our job as citizens is to be thoughtful, careful, and engaged in our communities and our nation. We do this by voting, by being well-informed, by volunteering, and by holding our politicians and ourselves accountable for our shared future.

To be an informed citizen requires access to information and open and transparent government. This community forum addresses access to information issues around local open government from the perspective of the media, libraries, city governments and civic organizations.

Emcee: Pete Peterson, Executive Director, Common Sense California

Opening speaker: Hedab Tarifi, Vice-Chair, Muslim Public Affairs Council

Open Government Panelists:
Larry Wilson, Public Editor, Pasadena Star-News
Jan Sanders, City of Pasadena Director of Libraries and Information Services
Michele Beal Bagneris, Pasadena City Attorney/City Prosecutor
Pete Peterson, Executive Director, Common Sense California

Date: **Saturday, March 6, 2010**
Time: **8:30 a.m. to Noon**
Place: **Neighborhood Church**
301 North Orange Grove Boulevard, Pasadena, 91103

Program

8:30 A.M.	CHECK-IN	9:15 A.M.	PANEL PRESENTATIONS—QUESTION & ANSWERS
9:00 A.M.	WELCOME	10:25 A.M.	FACILITATED BREAKOUT SESSIONS
9:05 A.M.	OPENING REMARKS	11:25 A.M.	REPORT BACK TO THE CITIZENS
		11:45 A.M.	WRAP-UP AND CALL TO ACTION

This forum is a free community service provided by League of Women Voters Pasadena Area and promoted by its community partners. Please RSVP by Noon on Friday, February 26 -- by phone: 626-798-0965 or by e-mail: lwwpasocialpolicy@gmail.com

Community Partners:

Altadena Library District, Pasadena Star-News, Caltech Libraries, Shatford Library, Mountain Views News, Pasadena Public Library, Senator Carol Liu, Assemblymember Mike Eng, Assemblymember Anthony Portantino, Fuller Seminary David Allan Hubbard Library

Alhambra • Altadena • La Canada Flintridge • Monrovia • Monterey Park • Pasadena • San Gabriel • San Marino • Sierra Madre • South Pasadena

SCAG (cont. from pg. 1)

MacGillivray misunderstood the the communicate she recieved from Hasan Ikhrata, Executive Director of SCAG. However, it was confirmed that the reduction was the result of the city completing and submitting the required information and not the result of Sierra Madre's failure to pay its dues in protest.

The RHNA numbers, cause of great concern by the community are a state mandate that requires every city to incorporate housing projections based on statewide needs into local housing elements. It also requires cities to identify potential sites. For a town like Sierra Madre, there are very few sites available for any type of new home construction. In which case,

the state does not demand that you create a space or find a developer. But, what the State may do, if a city fails to have its Housing Element certified, can be as extreme as taking away the city's control over zoning and subsequent development.

Confirmation from SCAG of what the new numbers will be was not available at press time.

"The Family Inheritance"



What are we passing on to the next generation? Is it what we intend to pass on? What inheritance are you hoping to leave behind for those who will follow you? According to Proverbs, "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches."

This week we explore the covenant God made with Abraham and Sarah, and with us.

9:15 am Traditional Worship
Sunday school (K-5) and childcare provided
10:30 am Adult Spiritual Formation
11:15 am "The Gathering" worship service
Casual worship, multi-voice ensemble, childcare provided

San Marino Community Church
1750 Virginia Road, San Marino, CA 91108
For more information call: (626) 282-4181
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Arcadia Chamber of Commerce EXPO



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Gun Belts Traded For Dinner Trays To Help Raise Money

Pasadena Police Employees will serve tables to make a little extra cash in the 6th Annual Special Olympics "Tip-A-Cop" fundraiser, benefiting the Special Olympics. The event will take place on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 from 5:00pm – 9:00pm at the Hamlet Restaurant located at 214 S. Lake Avenue in Pasadena.

"Our employees do a lot to support the non-profit and social services in the City," says Interim Chief of Police Christopher Vicino. "We rely heavily on them to help us do our jobs. If we didn't have the resources we have through the not-for-profit agencies, we would not be able to refer families to the resources they need in order to cope. Special Olympics connects families with service networks that can provide care and support for their loved ones. This fundraiser is a fun way for our officers to interact with community members, assist the Special Olympics and say thank you for the work that they do."

The department would like to encourage residents in and around the City to consider dining out that night and tipping your favorite police waiter for services rendered, but reminded that in trading gun belts for dinner trays, they may need some coaching!

The Special Olympics is a global nonprofit organization serving 200 million people with intellectual disabilities.

Forum on Citizen's Right to Know

Community members in the ten cities served by League of Women Voters Pasadena Area are invited to participate in a forum to discuss open, accessible and transparent government.

"Access to Impact: Using Open Government to Create Change" is scheduled for Saturday, March 6, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Neighborhood Church, 301 N. Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena. The forum is free. An RSVP is requested at 626-798-0965 or lwvpasocialpolicy@gmail.com

Pet of the Week



Jeannie, a lovely, five year old shepherd mix needs a new home. She can be shy at first but warms up quickly and loves attention. She may need some extra time adjusting to new situations but will likely blossom in a loving, quiet home. Come visit with this sweet dog today!

The regular dog adoption fee is \$120, which includes medical care prior to adoption, spaying or neutering, vaccinations, and a follow-up visit with a participating vet.

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask for A203806 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 can be found at www.pasadenahumane.org



Second Marathon Draws Thousands

Those that took part in this year's second Pasadena Marathon Sunday said it was very different than last year. And although this year's race drew about the same number of racers, 8,000 most said this time the event was well organized.

"After reading the reviews from the previous year, I was concerned," one racer said without stating the exact

reasons.

The only real complaint came from those standing at the finish line. Some said that as the Men's Marathon winners, 1st, 2nd and 3rd crossed the finish line, none were announced as the winners. About 15 minutes later, reporters, including this newspaper, were told that Mike Davies, took first, with 2:42:51, and only after asking.

Davies is a graduate of Caltech. Mandy Grantz, also a graduate student at Caltech, won the woman's race with 3:01:05.

Last year's inaugural marathon got off to a bad start, first being canceled due to wildfires then hampered with torrential downpours.

Story and photo by Dean Lee.

Villa Parke Soccer Field Goes Synthetic



By Dean Lee

The city Council Monday night unanimously approved, as a consent item, funding for the second synthetic playing field within the city. The new \$405,000 soccer field upgrade at Villa Parke is part of a three year goal to improve, maintain and enhance public facilities and infrastructure.

Before the approval the council only had one question, when will the new

field be ready?

"Our goal is to have it installed before the end of June," City Manager Michael Beck said.

The new field will be installed by Fieldturf USA, the same synthetic turf supplier for the recently completed multi-use synthetic field at Robinson Park.

Martian Pastucha, Director of Public Works, said synthetic fields save the city

money through less upkeep. He also said they do have a sprinkler system contrary to belief, although they use much less water. The fields are made of recycled tires and during the summer they do need to be cooled down. Sprinklers are also used to clean the surface he explained.

City staff said Villa Parke was chosen due to the existing deteriorating and unsafe playing conditions of the natural turf.

"Synthetic turf can sustain almost unlimited use without deterioration and thus can greatly expand the capacity of the field," they said. "The soccer field at Villa Parke is an ideal site due to the high user demand."

The project also supports Pasadena's Green City Action Goals, regarding energy efficiency.

Pastucha said the city has future plans to covert all the major park's playing fields into synthetic ones.

Local Actor, Activist Found Dead in Canada



After going missing for almost two weeks, actor Andrew Koenig, was found dead Thursday by family members in an urban park near Vancouver, an apparent suicide Canadian officials said.

Koenig, the son of Walter Koenig best known for his roll of Chekov on the original Star Trek series, was 41. He was last seen by friends at a bakery in the Stanley Park area of Vancouver Feb. 14. He was scheduled to fly back to L.A. Feb. 16 but never got on the plane.

Koenig made headlines in Pasadena after being arrested for disrupting the 2008 Rose Parade as he dashed in front of a Chinese-Olympic themed float protesting the Chinese Communist Party. He held up a sign reading, "China: Free Burma." He spent one day in jail.

At a press conference Thursday Walter Koenig said, with his wife Judith Levitt-Koenig by his side, "If you learn anything from this, there are people out there who care."

Levitt-Koenig added that he [Andrew Koenig] did not realize help was available.

Both, Judith and Walter walked off the set of Larry King Live Wednesday Night minutes before a scheduled appearance to plea for help finding their son. Reports say the two were upset being the last segment to appear.

Koenig was best known for his roll in the 80s sitcom Growing Pains as the character Richard "Boner" Stabone.

NASA Website Shows Earth's Changing Climate

Will 2010 be the warmest year on record? How do the recent U.S. "Snowmageddon" winter storms and record low temperatures in Europe fit into the bigger picture of long term global warming? NASA has launched a new Web page to help people better understand the causes and effects of Earth's changing climate.

The new "A Warming World" page hosts a series of new articles, videos, data visualizations, space-

based imagery and interactive visuals that provide unique NASA perspectives on this topic of global importance.

The page includes feature articles that explore the recent Arctic winter weather that has gripped the United States, Europe and Asia, and how El Nino and other longer-term ocean-atmosphere phenomena may affect global temperatures this year and in the future. A new video, "Piecing

Together the Temperature Puzzle," illustrates how NASA satellites monitor climate change and help scientists better understand how our complex planet works.

The new Web page is available on NASA's Global Climate Change Web site at: <http://climate.nasa.gov/warmingworld>.

More information at: <http://www.nasa.gov>.

PCC Welcomes Award-Winning Author, Teacher Rafe Esquith to Teacher Symposium



Rafe Esquith

Rafe Esquith, an award-winning author and teacher, will be the guest presenter at Pasadena City College's Teach-a-Palooza on March 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. Veteran and aspiring educators are invited to attend the event, which will take place at the Creveling Lounge. A reception and book signing will follow.

Esquith, a teacher at Hobart Elementary School in Southern California, is the recipient of the

Disney National Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award (1992), Sigma Beta Delta Fellowship, Oprah Winfrey's Use Your Life Award, Parent's magazine's As You Grow Award, and the President's National Medal of Arts. He is also the author of several books including, Teach Like Your Hair's on Fire, Lighting Their Fire, and There Are No Shortcuts. For more information, call (626) 585-3056.

L.A. Supervisor Wants Federal Reimbursement for Cost to Clean Debris Basins

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich asked Thursday that the federal government reimburse the County for the \$30 million it cost to remove nearly a million cubic yards of mud, rocks and lumber from debris basins adjacent to the Station Fire that help protect neighborhoods in the foothill areas from mudslides during recent rain storms.

"The U.S. Forest Service's

failure to extinguish the Station Fire in its earliest stage resulted in a catastrophe that is still impacting our County residents and taxpayers," Antonovich said. "It caused the build up of material in these vital debris basins that must be cleared to prevent flooding and protect life and property." More rain is forecast this week in areas affected by the fire.

Pasadena Police Launch "e- Policing" Website



Pasadena Police announced that it launched a new neighborhood crime mapping page available through its website yesterday. At Monday's City Council meeting, Interim Chief of Police unveiled his three pronged approach to electronic outreach efforts currently under way referred to as e-policing. The first is his weekly e-mail message to community leaders. These are people with large constituencies who are frequently asked questions about the department. The second has been the launch of Nixle (www.nixle.com) where anyone can subscribe to get information that the department sends out such as news releases, community alerts and advisories and event announcements. The third, which launched yesterday, is CrimeMapping.

com where anyone with computer access can find out about crime in the City. The department is also looking into social websites such as Facebook. The electronic messaging and information can be easily accessed by going to the department's home page: (<http://cityofpasadena.net/Police/>) and clicking the e-policing tool bar.

"e-policing will be combined with the "one cop, one beat, one year" initiative to forge a new department structure in order to support our long standing philosophy of community policing," says Chief Vicino. "It, in no way replaces our face-to-face meetings, but it will be the centerpiece to our service area work in that it will help us provide more information, greater communication, and build stronger relationships in the community."

Get Moving Around The Rose Bowl Loop With Bogaard

Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard and members of the Recreation and Parks Commission will lead a 3.3-mile walk around the Rose Bowl Loop at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 3, as part of Up & Moving Pasadena.

The Recreation and Parks Commission advises the Pasadena City Council on matters concerning recreation,

parks, the Arroyo Seco, Rose Bowl Stadium and Brookside Golf Course.

Meet at Gate A at the stadium. Free parking is available. All levels of ability will be accommodated.

Find walking tips, start a walking group and track your progress at www.upandmoving.org or call (626) 831-2980.

Police Activities League Shows Off to Whole Foods Market

On Wednesday, February 24 at 3:30 pm., the Pasadena Police Activities League will show off when Whole Foods Market Pasadena delivers a check from a fundraiser earlier this year. They will also deliver peanut butter and jelly and turkey sandwiches for the kids' daily snack and will get a tour of the center at 960 E Walnut.

"We plan to have not only our PAL kids, but many of our community partners and volunteers that help make this program run," says Interim Chief of Police Christopher Vicino. We want them to see how we spend their money and how much the kids get for every dollar donated. Our community partners are invaluable in keeping the costs down. We want our financial supporters to have the opportunity to see first hand how their contributions deliver after and out of school care to over 180 children per year. Whole Foods Market Pasadena has been a major supporter and we appreciate all that they do."

Pasadena PAL began in 1996 in partnership with The Salvation Army

Tabernacle with an emphasis on providing a safe place to be after school. Since that time, it has grown to include over 12 groups and non-profits, about two dozen volunteers, many of them police officers, and 1600 kids past and present, providing homework assistance, life skills, recreation and most importantly the encouragement to succeed.

Now, more than ever, it is important for kids to have a safe place to be until their parents get home from work. Legislative conversations behind rising unemployment, early release of prisoners, municipal fiscal constraints rarely include discussions around the impact on children, but you can be sure that those very same issues will compete for our children's attention unless they have an alternative. PAL provides that alternative. For more information on the Pasadena PAL program please call the Pasadena PAL Coordinator, Corporal Glenn Thompson or go to the website at: http://ww2.cityofpasadena.net/police/Youth%20Programs/About_pals.asp

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, February 14th, to Saturday February 20th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 241 calls for service.

Tuesday, February 16th:

6:19 am – Vandalism, 300 to 600 block of West Sierra Madre Blvd. Three vehicles were damaged with a black marking pen between 2/11/2010, and 2/16/2010. Male genitalia were drawn on the hoods of two of the vehicles and on the left passenger door of the other.

9:37 am - Vandalism, Bank of America, 350 West Sierra Madre Blvd. The crime occurred between 2:00 pm Saturday, 2/13/2010 and 9:15

am Sunday, 2/14/2010. A glue was applied to the keyboard of an automated teller machine.

8:00 pm – Vandalism, 200 block West Montecito Ave. The passenger sliding window of a parked van was marked with offensive words.

Thursday, February 18th:

7:16 pm – Felony arrest, Possession of Drugs for Sale - 200 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. An officer stopped a motorist for a traffic violation. Further investigation revealed the driver was intoxicated, driving on a suspended driver's license, and in possession of drugs for sale/furnishing. The driver was arrested at the scene and taken to the Pasadena Police Jail for booking.

Monrovia Police Blotter

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 559 service events, resulting in 121 investigations. Following are the last week's highlighted issues and events:

Assault with a Deadly Weapon / Criminal Threats

On February 11 at 10:13 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 1800 block of California regarding an assault. When officers arrived, they discovered the suspect and victim are bothers who were involved in an argument. The argument escalated when the suspect pushed the victim and produced a sharp object, either a knife or nail clippers. The suspect tried to stab the victim but was pushed away by a family member, preventing injury to the victim. The suspect fled prior to officers arriving. An area search was conducted with negative results. The investigation is continuing.

Warrant Arrest / Fraud / Suspects Arrested

On February 12 at 12:42 a.m., an officer observed a vehicle in the area of Duarte and Myrtle occupied with two male gang members and a female driver. A check on the vehicle license plate revealed a warrant for a female. A traffic stop was made on the vehicle, which revealed the warrant was for the driver. She was arrested. A check on the passengers revealed they were gang members from Azusa. One of them was recently paroled and the other had a warrant and was arrested. He was later release on a citation. The female subject was found to be in possession of a fraudulent social security card. She was held for bail and the investigation is continuing.

Domestic Violence / Suspect Arrested

On February 12 at 12:42 a.m., police received a 911 call of a male striking a female and trying to force her into a vehicle. When officers arrived, they observed the vehicle leaving the area. They stopped the vehicle and, as a result of the investigation, the male subject was arrested for domestic violence. The female was transported by ambulance to a hospital for her injuries. The investigation is continuing.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon / Suspect Arrested

On February 12 at 4:01 a.m., a female caller reported her mother had been stabbed by the mother's boyfriend. The caller was able to provide information on the suspect's vehicle as the suspect was leaving the area. An arriving officer observed the vehicle and attempted to stop it, but the driver fled. A pursuit ensued through Monrovia and ended in El Monte. The driver abandoned his vehicle one block from his home. A perimeter was established to contain the suspect that prevented him from getting into his home. Officers established communication with the suspect on his cell phone and he eventually surrendered to officers. The victim sustained multiple lacerations to the front and back of her neck and hands. She was transported to a hospital and treated for her injuries. She is expected to survive. The investigation is continuing.

Suicidal Subject / Mental Evaluation

On February 13 at 12:09 p.m., a caller stated that a suicidal male subject had taken a large quantity of pills and was driving a red Ford Mustang in the area of Myrtle and Huntington. Officers responded and eventually located the subject in the county wash area. He was throwing things and acting irrationally. Officers detained him and requested paramedics. He was transported to a hospital for emergency treatment and held for mental evaluation.

Suicidal Subject / Mental Evaluation

On February 14 at 12:40 p.m., an officer responded to the 100 block of North Encinitas regarding a female who was threatening to commit suicide. She left the location in a vehicle with her two children, ages one and five, prior to officers arriving. Officers checked the area, but were unable to locate the subject. She eventually returned to the residence with the children. She was transported to a hospital and placed on a 72-hour hold for mental evaluation. The children were unharmed and were left in their grandmother's care.

Grand Theft Auto Recovery - Suspect Arrested

On February 14 at 12:48 p.m., officers responded to a residence in the 200 block of Jasmine regarding a petty theft from a vehicle. During the investigation, the officer ran a check on the vehicle and it returned as a reported stolen vehicle out of Arizona. The reporting party told the officer he had purchased the car, but he had no paperwork to show he owned the vehicle or was making payments. The officer verified the vehicle was stolen through Arizona authorities and spoke to the owner of the vehicle, who stated she did not know the suspect. He was arrested for Grand Theft Auto.

Burglary / Suspect Arrested

On February 15 at 3:10 a.m., a resident in the 400 block of South Canyon called 911 as a suspect was trying to open her front door. She could see something

being wedged in the door jamb and the door knob was turned. Officers arrived and found the male suspect still at the front door. The suspect and the victim had a dating relationship, but broke up more than two years ago. It was Valentines Day and the suspect said he wanted to see the victim. The victim desires prosecution.

Grand Theft Auto

On February 16 at 6:37 a.m., an officer responded to the 500 block of Fano regarding a stolen vehicle report. The victim reported that she parked her truck in her assigned apartment carport and secured it. She returned to her carport this morning and her truck was missing. There was no broken glass on the ground where the truck was parked and she had accounted for all of the keys. Investigation continuing.

Under the Influence / Suspect Arrested

On February 16 at 7:14 a.m., officers responded to Myrtle and Atara regarding a male subject sitting in a chair who appeared to be under the influence. When officers contacted the subject he was uncooperative and displayed bizarre behavior. The subject suddenly stood up and took an aggressive stance. Officers determined the subject to be under the influence of drugs. They tried to verbally to control the subject, to no avail. The officers believed the subject was going to charge, so one of the officers activated his taser, with no effect on the subject. Officers took hold of the subject and were eventually able to get him under control. Paramedics were requested and the subject was taken to a hospital for booking clearance. He was then brought to the station for booking and detoxification. The subject is a known gang member and he was served with the gang injunction while in custody.

Vehicle Burglary

On February 16 at 8:30 a.m., an officer went to the 100 block of Highland regarding a vehicle burglary report. The victim had parked his vehicle the evening before. He returned to it in the morning and found a passenger window had been broken. He checked his car and found the GPS system was stolen. Investigation continuing.

Vehicle Burglary

On February 16 at 8:31 a.m., an officer was dispatched to the 100 block of El Nido regarding a vehicle burglary. The victim parked his vehicle on the street in front of his residence in the evening and secured it. The next morning his neighbor knocked on his door and told him a window on his vehicle was shattered. He went out to his vehicle and found that his GPS system was missing. It appears the suspect broke the window and grabbed the GPS. The victim stated this is the second time in four months this has happened to his vehicle. Investigation continuing

Vehicle Burglary

On February 16, an officer was dispatched to a parking lot in the 100 block of West Duarte regarding a vehicle burglary. The victim parked her vehicle in the lot and left her purse in the car. When she returned to the vehicle, she saw a window had been broken and her purse was stolen. Investigation continuing.

Assault

On February 17 at 1:48 p.m., a caller reported that a male subject was jumped by three male suspects. Officers responded to the area and located the victim, but the suspects had fled the area in a silver Honda. The victim, a student, reported that as he walked near a freeway underpass, the suspect vehicle drove by him and the front passenger asked him where he was from. The vehicle then made a u-turn and stopped next to the student. The front passenger exited the vehicle and began to fight with the student. As they were fighting, the rear passenger also exited the vehicle, grabbed the student, threw him to the ground and yelled the name of a local gang. The two male passengers then returned to the vehicle and the suspects fled the area. The victim sustained minor injuries. Investigation continuing.

Search Warrants - Convicted Felon with a Firearm / Suspects Arrested

On February 18 at 3 a.m., the Monrovia Police Department Detective Bureau served search warrants on two locations regarding a convicted felon in possession of firearms. The Foothills Special Enforcement Team was called in to assist with one location and the Detective Bureau, Special Enforcement Team and Community Policing officers served the warrant at the second location. A search of the locations resulted in finding seven firearms, including a handgun, several rifles, a shotgun, ammunition, pellet guns, knives, illegal fireworks and evidence of recent crimes. The primary suspect and his girlfriend were arrested and booked for felony firearms charges.

A Weekly Spotlight on Sierra Madre Volunteers

Jackie Knowles - Full-time Volunteer, Works 40-Hr. Weeks

Whoever thought a volunteer job would demand a 40-hour week? Whoever expected an altruistic venture to become a full-time job?

Jackie Knowles has had that experience. She manages The Women's Room, a daytime refuge for women who are alone and homeless or at risk, at the Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Area Churches in Northwest Pasadena. Jackie leads a corps of about 25 volunteers who operate the day center, which provides an inviting, warm environment where women stressed from living on the street can reclaim their personhood and not be defined by where they lay their heads at night. They come for showers, to do laundry, to use computers and telephone, take a quiet nap, have a bowl of freshly made soup, get their hair styled, a makeover. They laugh. They talk. They feel like "All Women." They are safe emotionally and physically. The Women's Room prepares them to accept and find services they need.

Jackie was a member of the Women's Committee at All Saints Church that founded the program 2 - 1/2 years ago.

"The number 1200 started it. Twelve-hundred people sleeping on the streets each night in Pasadena, a third of them women, most over the age of 40," Jackie said. "Something had to be done. The Women's Issues Committee members decided to roll up their sleeves to fill a gap in services for women in Pasadena who are homeless without drug, alcohol or mental issues." ECPAC welcomed the program which was a perfect fit with its other programs: a food pantry, homeless prevention services and the bad weather shelter. Numerous nonprofit groups and women's organizations such as the Sierra Madre Civic Club are supportive in a variety of ways.

"The volunteers love working at The Women's Room because they can see that they make a difference in other people's lives. There's something about women helping women," Jackie said.

As for her history as a volunteer, she said she often has chosen activities to improve the community. "It's not so much the list of activities," she said, "as it is contributing to the betterment of people's lives."

In her early years in Sierra Madre in the 1960s and '70s, she chose to work with the schools -- campaigning for school bonds, committed to making integration work, participated in the drive to build the Sierra Madre recreation center, and did the soccer, Little League and Scouting routines. She even led a Camp Fire Girls troop one year.

Jackie continues to have an interest in supporting the public schools. "A country can't succeed without an educated populace," she said. She believes people should seek volunteer

opportunities that match their passion and expertise.

As a former food editor, Jackie was one of the founders (in 1995) of The Culinary Historians of Southern California, a group that provides free public programs benefiting the downtown Los Angeles Library. She explained that the library has a world-class collection of books on food, the history of food, old menus and ephemera. She said many early California cookbooks and some of the first cookbooks ever written are housed there.

"We started with 40 members and now it has grown to about 300," she said.

Jackie and her husband, Jim, were married in 1952 and came to Sierra Madre when Jim joined the faculty at Caltech. She had graduated from the University of Arizona (major in English, minors in speech and journalism). He had graduated from MIT in Boston on the East Coast.

Their three children -- John, Jeff and Jamey -- grew up in Sierra Madre. John and his wife, Linda, live in Sierra Madre where they raised three sons. The "Other Knowles," as Jackie calls them, also have been active volunteers in the community. Both John and his son Joshua were volunteer firefighters for the City. Linda headed Relay For Life and founded Spero, a nonprofit foundation to provide services that improve the community. Jeff and his wife, Susan, live with their two young children in Sausalito. Jamey lives in Pasadena.

After an illustrious career as a professor of applied mechanics at Caltech, Jim passed away Nov. 1. Caltech has set up a Knowles Memorial Fund for a James K. Knowles lecture series, the first to be held on Feb. 27, at Beckman Institute Auditorium.

Jackie worked at the Pasadena Star-News from 1974 to 1994, as a reporter, copy editor, city editor and features editor.

Following her retirement, the Sierra Madrean has been active in the League of Women Voters Pasadena Area, where she now serves as media liaison. She said, "The League believes informed voters make democracy work and that we all need to contribute to the betterment of the community."

Jackie mused, "Sure, volunteering is a choice, but it's important to take volunteer jobs seriously. Your paycheck is what you learn and knowing you have a positive effect on and change lives. And, at the same time, you can have fun.

"Volunteering is about enriching your own life and the lives of others."

Jackie Knowles -- 40-hour volunteer who exudes enthusiasm wherever she goes.

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, February 14, through Saturday, February 20, the Police Department responded to 902 calls for service of which 126 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, February 14:

1. Shortly after midnight, officers responded to Walgreens, 253 East Foothill, regarding an audible burglary alarm. Offsite security advised that their surveillance video showed four male suspects smash a window with rocks to enter the business. The suspects then stole 25 packs of cigarettes and fled the scene.

2. Around 9:40 p.m., units were dispatched to the 300 block of Laurel in reference to several juveniles seen stealing a scooter from a backyard. Three Caucasian juveniles, two 16-year-old male subjects and a 17-year-old female subject, matching the suspects' descriptions were detained in the 900 block of West Foothill. They were positively identified as the individuals involved in the theft. Further investigation revealed that the two male juveniles were also involved in the burglary at Walgreens. The two boys were charged with commercial burglary, petty theft, receiving stolen property, and possession of tobacco; the girl was charged with receiving stolen property, possession of tobacco, and possession of alcohol.

Monday, February 15:

3. Loss prevention personnel from Abercrombie & Fitch came to the station around 1:25 p.m. to report a commercial burglary that occurred at 2:13 p.m. on February 12. A security footage showed a male Hispanic and a female subject enter the store empty-handed. The female suspect distracted an employee while the male suspect left the store with a large Disney bag filled with merchandise. The suspects stole 130 t-shirts worth about \$3,900.

4. Shortly after midnight, a traffic accident occurred at Sunset and Duarte. While the victim was stopped at a traffic signal, a drunk driver rear-ended his vehicle. A 51-year-old male Hispanic driver was arrested for DUI and unlicensed driver.

Tuesday, February 16:

5. A victim came to the station around 10:33 a.m. to file a theft report. He indicated that he left his wallet at Hope International Church, 1741 South Baldwin, on February 13 around noon, and at 5:00 p.m. a credit card company notified him that \$1,700 in cash was withdrawn from San Manuel Casino.

6. Between 8:45 a.m. and 1:51 p.m., a residential burglary occurred in the 100 block of West Naomi. Unknown suspect(s) entered the home by unknown means, ransacked rooms, and stole cash and jewelry.

Wednesday, February 17:

7. Units responded to an audible burglary alarm in the 400 block of Walnut around 11:55 p.m. Upon arrival, officers found the front door of the residence open and rooms ransacked. The victim advised that cash, coins, and an expensive diamond ring were stolen.

8. Shortly before 8:00 p.m., officers were called to the 00 block of Wisteria in reference to a 38-year-old woman who had overdosed on heroin. The victim was resuscitated by paramedics and was transported to a hospital for treatment. A 43-year-old male Caucasian resident was contacted and heroin and drug paraphernalia were found throughout the home and backyard. He was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia and hypodermic needles, and felony parole violation.

Thursday, February 18:

9. Around 1:57 p.m., units were sent to Santa Anita and Huntington regarding a welfare check. An intoxicated 63-year-old male Caucasian was located and it was determined that he was unable to care for himself. The man also had a valid infraction warrant, so he was taken into custody.

10. A car was located in the 100 block of North First around 9:59 p.m. with a warrant attached to the vehicle. A traffic stop was conducted and a 22-year-old male African-American driver was contacted. He initially provided officers with a false name, but once his true identity was ascertained, record checks revealed that he had a suspended license and five outstanding misdemeanor warrants totaling \$245,000. He was taken into custody and three small baggies of marijuana were found on his person during the booking process.

Friday, February 19:


11. Between 6:00 p.m. on February 18 and 5:30 a.m. on February 19, four auto burglaries were reported at 938 West Huntington. Unknown suspect(s) smashed car windows and stole miscellaneous property, including tools, cash, purse, and camera.

12. Three vehicle thefts occurred at Westfield Mall between 4:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. A 1997 champagne Honda Accord, a 2000 white Honda Civic, and a 1991 white Honda Accord were stolen from the parking lot/structure.

Saturday, February 20:

13. Around 2:32 p.m., loss prevention personnel from Macy's advised that they had detained a male juvenile for theft. The suspect was seen removing tags and security sensors with pliers from three pairs of jeans while in a fitting room. He then placed the merchandise in a shopping bag and left the store without making payment. A private person's arrest was made, and a 17-year-old Asian was taken into custody for commercial burglary and possession of burglary tool.

14. Loss prevention personnel from Sports Chalet advised that they had detained two African-American juveniles for theft around 6:18 p.m. The juveniles removed BB guns from their packages and concealed them in their pants, along with a box of BB pellets. Private persons' arrests were made, and the juveniles, ages 14 and 16, were taken into custody for commercial burglary and possession of tobacco. They were later cited and released to a case worker from a group home.



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YOGA MADRE

PUSD LAUNCHES TASK FORCE TO REDUCE DROPOUTS

Dropout Reduction Initiative aims to cut dropout rate by 50%

Pasadena, CA – Members of the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education joined with community and civic leaders for the initial meeting of the PUSD Dropout Task Force on Wednesday evening. The task force is part of the PUSD Dropout Reduction Initiative, a comprehensive, aggressive effort to cut the dropout rate in half and increase graduation rates district-wide.

“One dropout is too many,” said Board Member Ramon Miramontes, Chair of the Dropout Task Force. “The Board of Education agrees that high school dropouts are a crisis so there is a sense of urgency and mission for this task force.”

According to 2007-2008 data, approximately 23.6 percent of PUSD students drop out before graduation. The PUSD

Dropout Reduction Initiative aims to reduce the dropout rate by 50 percent to 11.8 percent for students enrolled in 2009-2010.

PUSD Dropout Task Force members include: PUSD Board Members Ramon Miramontes, Task Force Chair, Tom Selinske, President, and Scott Phelps, Vice President; Berlinda Brown, Trustee, Pasadena City College; Robert Leventer, Commissioner, Pasadena Juvenile Court; Eric Johnson, Lake Avenue Church; and Mikala Rahn, President, Public Works and Founder, Learning Works Charter School.

The Board-appointed Dropout Task Force is charged with recommending initiatives, programs and policies aimed at decreasing the dropout rate. The group will convene meetings with community partners, interview staff, request data, and research and evaluate existing programs. The task force will submit its findings and recommendations

to the Board of Education by April 30, 2010.

The Task Force will be informed by PUSD's internal staff Dropout Working Group, and will make recommendations to the Board of Education for policies and strategies that address the issue. These include linking PUSD schools and students to the efforts of the City Conversations Dropout Planning Committee, which has brought together many community folks and organizations willing to help with the issue and has identified the community resources available to help.

“The participation of community partners who have an interest in this work is important because we recognize that we can't decrease the dropout rate alone,” said Edwin Diaz, Superintendent of Schools. “We need to engage the resources and assets of the entire community in this effort.”

The core strategy for the Dropout Reduction Initiative is to establish a system of teaching and learning to meet the needs of all students. Components include: excellent pre-school through 12th grade instruction, professional development, Excellent Middle Schools, College and Career Pathways, and high-quality alternative education programs.

The Dropout Reduction Initiative also incorporates a targeted strategy for identifying at-risk students and acting quickly to prevent dropouts. Specific actions include regular review and response to student assessments to provide the academic and social resources needed to support student success.

The Dropout Task Force will next meet on March 10 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and again on March 24, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Education Center, 351 S. Hudson Avenue, Room 236.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3463 Head of School: Ann M. Gillick
E-mail address: agillick@alverno-hs.org

Arcadia High School

180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: David L. Vannasdall

Arroyo Pacific Academy

41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca,
(626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke
E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org

Barnhart School

240 W. Colorado Blvd. Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 446-5588 Head of School: Joanne Testa Cross
Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.com

Bethany Christian School

93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3527 Principal: James Lugenbuehl
E-mail address: jml@bcsclions.org

Carden of the Foothills School

429 Wildrose Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016 626/358-9414
626/358-5164 fax office@cardenofthefoothills.com

The Gooden School

192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-2410 Head of School: Patty Patano
website: www.goodenschool.org

High Point Academy

1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road
Pasadena, Ca. 91107
626-798-8989

website: www.highpointacademy.org

LaSalle High School

3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 351-8951 Principal: Patrick Bonacci
website: www.lasallehs.org

Monrovia High School

325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 471-2000, email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

Norma Coombs Alternative School

2600 Paloma St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 798-0759 Principal: Dr. Vanessa Watkins
E-mail address: watkins12@pusd.us

Odyssey Charter School

725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001
(626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O'Neill
website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

Pasadena High School

2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 798-8901 Principal: Dr. Derrick Evans
website: www.pasadenahigh.org

Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981 website: www.pusd@pusd.us

St. Rita Catholic School

322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-9028 Principal: Joanne Harabedian
website: www.st-rita.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School

141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428 Principal: Gayle Bluemel
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School

160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947 Principal: Gayle Bluemel
Contact person: Garrett Newsom, Asst. Principal
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Weizmann Day School

1434 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 797-0204
Lisa Feldman: Head of School

Wilson Middle School

300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln
E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us

Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109
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- Learn Leadership and Self Mastery Skills
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Course Details

Course Dates: PUSD Spring Break April 12-16, 2010
Ages: 13-15 years old
Space is Limited. Please call Ethan or Lessie for more details at 626.564.0844

Outward Bound participants (above) enjoy an afternoon canoeing down the river. Joyce Foster, (right) an Outward Bound Adventures Board member ran in the Pasadena Marathon to raise money for the organization.



Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher are back in Sierra Madre for another year of Huck Finn Fishing. In cooperation with Sierra Madre Civic Club, Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club, Sierra Madre Rotary Club, Sierra Madre Interact Club, and the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department, the Community and Personnel Services Department is sponsoring the annual campout and fishing derby for youths ages 3-15 years. Don't miss out on the family fishing portion of Huck Finn on Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday.

REGISTRATION

Camping registrations must be done at the Community and Personnel Services Office located at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., starting February 2 through March 23. The cost is \$45, which includes campsite, derby contest for 4 kids, and family fishing on Saturday.

For more information, please call the Community and Personnel Services office at (626) 355-5278.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**FRIDAY, MARCH 26**

Campout sites are filled on a first-come first-serve basis. You must sign up in advance for the campout. Campsites are \$45.00 up to a family of six. Food will be provided by the Sierra Madre Interact Club for a small fee.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

Fishing Derby
7:00am-11:30am
Youths ages 3-15 years
\$6 per youth

Family Fishing
12:30pm-4:00pm
Open to all ages
\$10 per family

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Family Fishing
7:00am-4:00pm
Open to all ages
\$10 per family

THE BANGLES IN CONCERT IN PASADENA ON MARCH 13; ALSO, BLIND LIKE SAM

The Bangles, who shot to rock superstardom in the 1980s with hits including “Walk Like An Egyptian,” “Eternal Flame,” “Manic Monday,” “In Your Room,” and more are appearing in Pasadena at the Duffy Lewis Gymnasium on the campus of La Salle High School on Saturday, March 13. Proceeds of the concert will go to support activities of the school's Visual and Performing Arts Department.

The women of what is arguably one of the greatest all-female rock bands of all time are Susanna Hoffs (guitar/vocals), Vicki Peterson (guitar/vocals) and Debbi Peterson (drums/vocals). These three original Bangles, who are currently working on a new album, will perform their hits and several new songs for this special event.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Opening the show at 7 p.m. is a favorite local band of Pasadena rockers, Blind Like Sam. They have released their first album, “Bury My Heart.” The musicians include Matt Toledo (lead vocals), Tony Landrith (rhythm guitar), Paul Jacques (lead guitar), Chuck Sinner (drums) and Keith Esparros (bass).

La Salle High School is located at 3880 East Sierra Madre Blvd. (at Michillinda), Pasadena, CA 91107.

Tickets for the show are available at the advance sale price of \$25 for adults and \$20 for students and are available by mail order. The application can be obtained by calling (626) 696-4415. Or, it can be downloaded at <http://www.thebangles.com> (click on news) or <http://www.blindlikesam.com>

Should any tickets remain on the day of the event, they will be \$30 each.

It'll be a rockin' good time for a good cause.

JOB OPENING: Senior Recreation Leader

The City of Sierra Madre is now accepting applications for the Senior Recreation Leader position. The Senior Recreation Leader is a front line position that implements recreation programs and leisure services for middle and high school students at the Youth Activity Center.

For more information contact Rosemary Garcia at 626-355-5278 or via email at: rgarcia@cityofsierramadre.com.

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TABLE FOR TWO WORLD FAMOUS

By Peter Dills

My late Pappy always told me, "Son, never debate sex, politics or religion. I am going to have to add one additional item to his list, a Sandwich/Dip. You probably couldn't go more than a couple blocks in most cities and not come across one, an American Sandwich Shop. It may be the most versatile food item ever created. I eat them for lunch, dinner and sometimes, even for breakfast. We are lucky for in the San Gabriel area we have a number of All-Stars sandwich shops to choose from. There is Tops on Walnut, Connel's Grinders on E. Washington, and The Hat, which has several locations. The Hat has been around since 1951, and I glad to say, it is a family run business. They are actively involved in the community as well, and that fact was fully demonstrated when Ron "Corky" Conzonire held the position of, President of the Tournament of Roses, from 2008-2009.

The Pastrami Sandwich or "Dip," as the menu proffers, is the Hat's signature dish. Sure, they have burgers, hot dogs and salads, but the menu item that keeps them coming back, is the "Pastrami Dip." It is a World Famous plunge of sandwich into au jus. I am planning on a trip to South America next month and I am going to ask everyone I meet, about LA' based World Famous Dishes. I'm just kidding... a little. But, I do develop a chuckle in that self anointed phrase. The World Famous Pastrami Sandwich is priced at a reasonable (\$6.99). The meat is thinly

sliced and the portion is generous. The bread is light and fluffy; it may be a little too light and fluffy. For my next visit, I will try it on regular sandwich bread. My sources inform me that the Hat goes through 14 tons of Pastrami per week. By my calculations, that is a lot of sandwiches. My dining companion "Mike" had the Hot Dog at (\$1.99) and a huge portion of fries at (\$3.09). He is on a diet, it appears. The prices are right at The Hat, everything is under (\$10). If you haven't checked it out, you will love the Dip. For the location near you, they have a slick web site www.thehat.com.

The Club House at The Santa Anita Race Track serves a corn beef sandwich at (\$7.95) that should be renowned as a Southern California Legend. The tasty sandwich is reason enough to go to the track. Although, I often spend considerable more upon some very slow animals that enter through the starting gate and enjoy a leisurely stroll as they view the mountains. I can give you an inside tip, it is a guaranteed winner, **The Annual Uncorked Wine Tasting** at Santa Anita on Sunday, March 28th, at 3 PM. Join me as we saunter liberally in the Paddock, tasting exquisite cuisine from popular restaurants and sipping lavishly upon soothing wines. Tickets are (\$60), and include parking, admission, program and grazing (no hay or alpha). Call (626) 447-0236 for tickets.

If you have a restaurant tip, don't hesitate to send me your suggestion. thechefknows@yahoo.com



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Sun 7	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro
Tues 9	QUIZZIDGE TRIVIA NITE WITH QUIZ MASTER MIDGE
Wed 10	THE L.A. SONG SIRENS
Thur 11	7:30 PM - 10:30 PM COW BOP featuring guitarist BRUCE FORMAN
Fri 12	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM JACK SHELDON QUARTET
Sat 13	7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Jazz Vocalist Judy Platt
Sun 14	VALENTINES DAY !!!! 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro
Tues 16	QUIZZIDGE TRIVIA NITE WITH QUIZ MASTER MIDGE
Wed 17	7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Bobby Bradford Motet 9:30 PM - 11:30 PM the Atomic Sherpas
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Sat 20	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM MEAGHAN BOEING & NOTARY PUBLIC
Sun 21	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro
Tues 23	QUIZZIDGE TRIVIA NITE WITH QUIZ MASTER MIDGE
Wed 24	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM BRUCE LOGGREN 17 PIECE BIG BAND
Thur 25	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM Meg & Snottie Scotty rock art
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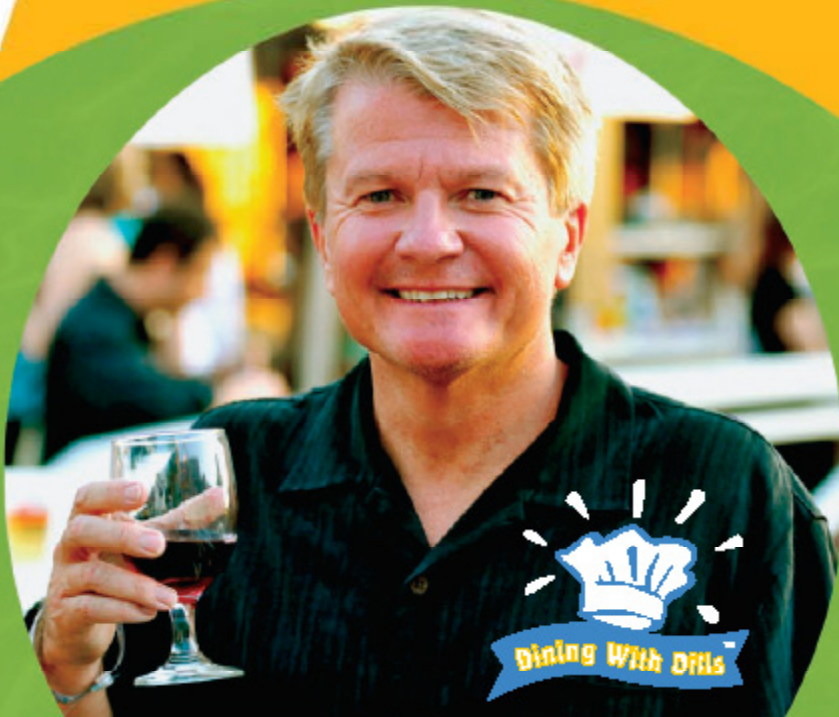
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HOWARD Hays As I See It

You can feel the loathing from comments left on Facebook and Twitter from enraged tea-baggers: “OMG What are you doing?”, “Already you are a sellout?”, “Turncoat”, “Lying lowlife scum hypocrite”, “You are a piece of garbage”. Many expressed betrayal, and suggested now’s the time to plan a recall. Several can’t be cited here because of the f-word, and then there’s the threat involving a 9-iron golf club.

So who’s the target of this invective? None other than Sen. Scott Brown (R-Ma), who up until a few days ago was the messiah of the right, whose ascension dashed whatever hope remained for the Obama agenda. And his crime? Joining a handful of other Republicans in a procedural vote allowing a jobs bill to advance towards final passage.

The bill itself wasn’t too controversial. It had become an \$85 billion wish-list, some good provisions and others that were flagrant giveaways written by K-Street lobbyists. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev) stripped it down and lowered the cost to around \$35 billion, reminding Senators that what remained had enjoyed Republican support in the past; tax relief for small businesses to spur employment, jobs on our nation’s highways and help for states and communities with their own infrastructure projects. Sen. Brown expressed his misgivings, but explained, “All of us, Republicans and Democrats, have to work together to get our economy back on track. I hope my vote today is a strong step toward restoring bipartisanship in Washington.”

Obviously, here’s a guy who didn’t get the memo. Although he was expressing a view that helped get him elected, it was clearly contrary to the game-plan of Republican leaders. Had Sen. Brown been paying attention, he would have realized that merits of legislation are irrelevant. He could’ve looked no further than the bill to extend unemployment benefits which passed the Senate last November by a vote of 98-0. Despite that final tally, it passed only after several weeks of Republican-orchestrated delays and veto threats, with three separate cloture votes. It was estimated that some 200,000 Americans actively seeking work lost their benefits while Republicans played their game. Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wa) wondered what constituency Republicans thought they were benefiting, and asked, “Who are they representing?”

It’s certainly not their constituents. President Obama’s poll numbers have dropped over the past several months, but his approval remains significantly higher than that of Congress - and Republicans fare much worse than Congress as a whole. Poll respondents tend to confuse Obama’s Recovery Act with Bush’s bailout of Wall Street, but when the components of the Recovery Act are specified - middle-class tax cuts, infrastructure investments, unemployment assistance, etc. - support is overwhelming. A recent Washington Post / ABC News poll showed nearly two-thirds wanting Congress to finish comprehensive healthcare reform. A Research 2000 poll of eight states where Democratic Senators are undecided shows support for the Senate healthcare bill at less than 40%, but if a public

option is included, support soars to close to 70%. CNN / Opinion Research found that 67% of Americans want Republicans to cooperate more with President Obama to get things done.

Sometimes the hypocrisy is mind-boggling, as in the case of the budget deficit - which only became a concern for Republicans once Obama took office. There’s the “pay-as-you-go” legislation enacted earlier this month after almost a year of beating back Republican opposition. These rules helped achieve a balanced budget during the Clinton years, but were tossed once Republicans gained the majority in 2002. There’s the bipartisan commission to tackle the deficit, which Obama created by executive order after Republicans refused to go along. It was modeled on an idea advanced by Republicans such as Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH), but their support turned to single-minded opposition once President Obama and the Democratic leadership came on board to see if Republicans could walk the walk and not just talk the talk.

Sen. Murray asks, “Who are they representing?” For a clue, we might look back to last December as financial reform legislation was taking shape, when House Republican leaders met with over a hundred industry lobbyists at the Capitol Visitors Center. Last September, Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Ks) urged that healthcare proposals be available on the website at least 72 hours before action is taken - to give lobbyists (“people that the providers have hired to keep up with all the legislation”) time to review and instruct Senators what to do. Almost \$3.5 billion was spent lobbying the federal government last year, which, as figured by the Center for Responsive Politics, works out to about \$1.3 million for every hour Congress was in session. Healthcare and business interests shelled out the most at about \$200,000 per hour (compared to \$16,000 an hour for unions).

Traditionally that money goes to the party in power, but now the tide is turning. At the beginning of 2009, money from Wall Street and the big banks went for Democrats 2 to 1; by the end of the year it was evenly split between the parties. Democrats appear embarrassed by the connection, while Republicans unabashedly grovel, with House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Oh) telling reporters how he urged Wall Street executives to “help our team” defeat Obama policies. According to the Washington Post, the final straw for those execs, many of whom supported Obama in the past, came last January when the President suggested banks repay the \$700 billion taxpayers shelled out to keep them afloat (and those muti-million bonuses coming).

A Democratic strategist conceded that both sides continue to take the money, but it’s the Republicans who crow about it. And, it’s the Republicans who will dump on those of their own like Sen. Scott Brown who regard “bipartisanship” and the need to “work together to get our economy back on track” as something more than empty talking points. Those leaving nasty messages on Sen. Brown’s Facebook and Twitter might realize someday how they’ve been duped themselves - and then we’ll see a real tea party.

GREG Welborn

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Imagine, if you will, that you are dropped into the middle of enemy territory, far removed from your own forces, without friends and clearly surrounded by potential enemies. You are a member of one of the elite Navy Seal teams now isolated in the middle of Afghanistan. Your mission is to disrupt the enemy, to minimize harm to innocent locals and somehow to always accurately discern the difference between friend and foe. The year is 2005, and you are well aware of the political sensitivities back home. It’s not too long before you encounter a group of goat herders who clearly demonstrate their intent to inform the local Taliban of your location. Despite instinct and reason born of years of extensive training and military experience, you decide to release the goat herders. Within hours, your team of 4 seals is attacked by more than 80 Taliban fighters. Despite unparalleled bravery, superior weaponry and an attempted helicopter rescue, all but one of the seals is killed along with all 18 Americans on the rescue helicopter. It’s not a story with a very happy ending; in fact it’s not really a story at all. It’s a true life mission impossible that went terribly wrong as much because of dumb luck as because of the manner in which we insist our soldiers fight the war on terror.

In a sense, the seal’s experience recalls Dickens’s observation that these are the best of times, and these are the worst of times. They are the best because we have young men, such as these 4 Navy Seals, who willingly deprive themselves of civilian normalcy, subject themselves to grueling training, undertake extremely hazardous assignments and abide by restrictive rules of engagement crafted out of hyper political correctness that serve no purpose other than to give our sworn enemy a tactical advantage in almost every firefight and conflict. Surely America is a blessed land when we produce young men of such courage, loyalty and morality. It is the worst of times because we do not yet take seriously the threat facing our country from militant Islam nor do we allow those willing to fight for our survival to prosecute that war with the needed commitment to all out victory.

Some might be tempted to say that the experience of Seal Team 10 summarized above is an isolated event. We were again reminded of the lie inherent in this easy excuse by this week’s release of the Justice Department’s final review of the whole “torture memo” witch hunt. Remember that when the Obama administration swept into power, it decided to attempt to prosecute two lawyers who, while working for the Bush Justice Department, wrote legal opinions and guidelines which provided the framework for the enhanced interrogation techniques used on terrorist suspects. Even though the previous Attorney General’s review determined that no laws were broken nor professional ethical standards breached, so committed was the Obama Administration to bring change to how we are waging the war on terror that Attorney General Eric Holder decided to persecute, not those who actually did the interrogations, but those who wrote the legal opinions determining what techniques were legal and which crossed the line to torture. Seal Team 10’s fatal error in granting a sworn enemy too much of a battlefield advantage was simply a symptom of a new political conviction that everyone who fought this war under Bush was an immoral, inhumane war criminal.

The days, weeks and months after 9-11 were difficult beyond anyone’s wildest imagination for those who were charged with protecting this country and its citizens. Not a single credible person didn’t believe that more major terrorist attacks were heading our way. Justice Department attorneys John Yoo and Jay Bybee were asked to answer the extremely difficult question of when interrogation methods crossed into acts of torture. The very fact that the question was asked and the concern raised is evidence of the basic decency of those who had to protect this country. To their credit, these two lawyers took on the task, addressed the critical issues and developed guidelines to help prevent an accidental exercise of torture as a result

of the highly charged emotional environment immediately after 9-11.

As thanks for their effort, the Obama Administration’s Justice Department produced a report from their Office of Professional Responsibility that neglected relevant facts, ignored salient precedents, misconstrued the law and accused these two men of violating undefined legal ethical standards and engaging in unspecified conspiracies without producing one shred of material evidence. It was a blatant political hatchet job, and not even a very subtle one at that.

When the Office of Professional Responsibility’s report was ready for release, it was reviewed by David Margolis, the Justice Department’s senior civil servant. Mr. Margolis is nobody’s political hack. He is a career Justice Department lawyer, a civil servant, who has served under both parties, who has sworn an oath to impartiality and the equal application of justice. Mr. Margolis was so angered by the reckless bias and sheer incompetence of the report that he wrote his own final review of it blasting the investigators’ actions, methods and tactics, and suggesting that they –rather than Msrs. Yoo and Bybee – should be reprimanded for ethical and professional lapses.

If this were just an isolated political cat fight, it could be easily overlooked. It wouldn’t be the first time that petty disagreements were turned into character smears by contenders for power in our nation’s corridors of power. But as the suicidal rules of engagement imposed on our advanced military teams show, there is a larger portrait here of political leaders who do not yet fully understand the nature of the enemy we face or show the commitment necessary to win the war. Rather than realizing we are fighting one war on at least 3 fronts – Iraq, Afghanistan, and Al-Qaida wherever they may be – and perhaps 4 if you count the recent slate of homeland terror attacks from the likes of Major Hassan at Fort Hood and the Christmas Day bomber, the Obama administration insists on treating these as somewhat isolated local skirmishes or simply criminal activities. Major Hassan’s attack on his fellow soldiers was just officially described as a terrorist attack this week, and only then after months of public fury that it was not being recognized as such. The Christmas Day bomber was immediately whisked into the arms of police, read Miranda rights and put into the criminal justice system rather than treated as an enemy combatant; General McChrystal in Afghanistan is denied the number of troops he needs, and those he is given are delayed beyond the critical timetable required to insure victory; Khalid Sheikh Mohammad, planner of the 9-11 attacks, is to be tried in a civilian court; special forces teams are unnecessarily handicapped by politically correct rules of engagement; and Iran is offered one more “final deadline” after another to stop a nuclear program it obviously intends to push to the logical conclusion of possessing long-range deliverable nuclear weapons capabilities.

Throughout history, many politicians have been called on to fight wars. Remarkably few of them have had the mettle, experience and courage to make the hard decisions and maintain the commitments of time and treasure to win them. Like it or not, evil is in ascension in the world, and the mission to stop it falls squarely on the United States. Not because we like to fight wars, not because we seek territory, not because ours is an overly militaristic culture, but because we are the only ones with the reach and resources to win. Let’s hope that the current administration awakens to this reality and makes the commitment to win, or we are liable to witness the results of many more impossible missions.

About the author: Gregory J. Welborn is a freelance writer and has spoken to several civic and religious organizations on cultural and moral issues. He lives in the Los Angeles area with his wife and 3 children and is active in the community. He can be reached at gregwelborn@earthlink.net.

Letters To The Editor

Food Labeling

Dear Editor:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently finalized regulations that will ensure organically certified production practices are in keeping with the spirit of what an organic label means to consumers.

The organic rule already required that producers afford access to pasture to receive certification, but the new rule will clarify vague language about how much grazing is enough and the limited circumstances under which animals can be denied pasture access. Previous requirements, for instance, allowed some products to receive the certified organic label although the animals rarely set foot outside a confined animal feeding operation (CAFO).

To obtain the label under the new rule, producers will have to give livestock access to the outdoors year-round and graze animals throughout the grazing season, which much be at least 120 days. In addition, the rules ensure that minimum amount of an animal’s food come from pasture. A report by the Union of Concerned Scientists found that grazing animals on pasture is not only less damaging to the environment than raising animals inside confined operations, but that meat and milk from grass-fed cows can contain higher levels of good fats that may provide health benefits.

USDA’s new rules will remove ambiguity for producers in meeting organic standards and give consumers greater confidence that milk and meat bearing the organic label have been produced in ways that truly benefit people, animals, and the environment.

Brise Tencer, Food policy advocate
Union of Concerned Scientists Washington, DC btencer@ucsusa.org

Sunshine Week

To the editor:

Almost 200 years ago, James Madison wrote, “A popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or, perhaps, both.” His words remain a call to action today.

Given the gravity of the issues facing our nation and our communities, the need for public access to governmental decisions and policies that affect all Americans is greater than ever. Access to this information allows citizens to hold their government accountable at the local, state, and national level. Whether it is to track how federal stimulus dollars are being spent or to attend a local government meeting where land use or school funding decisions are being made, “sunshine laws” afford us access and create government transparency.

However, these laws are only as good as we, the people, demand that they be. During his first year in office, President Obama has made a commitment to creating a more transparent, participatory and collaborative federal government. Now, it is our responsibility as residents of communities in the San Gabriel Valley, to ensure that this same commitment is made here.

March 14-20 is Sunshine Week (held around Madison’s birthday), a national initiative to promote the importance of open government and freedom of information.

To lead into Sunshine Week, League of Women Voters Pasadena Area is hosting a community forum on open and accessible government and public participation on Saturday, March 6, from 8:30 a.m. to Noon at Neighborhood Church, 301 N. Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena. There is more information on the League’s Web site (<http://www.lwvpasadenaarea.org/access%28english&spanish%29.pdf>). The event is free. Spanish translation will be provided. An RSVP is requested at 626-798-0965 or lwvpasocialpolicy@gmail.com.

As members of the League of Women Voters, we are continuously answering Madison’s call to action: we are working to keep our community fair, vibrant and strong — starting with having an open and transparent government. We hope to see you on March 6.

Sincerely,

Petite Morrison, President
Monica Hubbard, Social Policy Director
League of Women Voters Pasadena Area

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: STEPHANIE R. HADEN
CASE NO. BP121077
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of STEPHANIE R. HADEN.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by WILLIAM WINTER in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that WILLIAM WINTER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act . (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

03/18/10 at 8:30AM in Dept. 11 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner
LEON F. TURNER, JR. - SBN 58512
6230 WILSHIRE BLVD, #1169 LOS ANGELES CA 90048
2/27, 3/6, 3/13/10 **CNS-1802076#**

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editor@mtnviewsnews.com Website: www.mtnviewsnews.com

Looking Up
with Bob Eklund

NASA's WISE Mission Releases First Images



A diverse cast of cosmic characters is showcased in the first images NASA released last week from its Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer, or WISE, an automated infrared telescope in Earth orbit.

Since WISE began its scan of the entire sky in infrared light on Jan. 14, this orbiting telescope has beamed back more than a quarter of a million raw (unprocessed) infrared images. Four new, processed pictures illustrate a sampling of the mission's targets—a wispy comet, a bursting star-forming cloud, the grand Andromeda galaxy, and a faraway cluster of hundreds of galaxies.

The images are online at: http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/WISE/multimedia/images20100216.html

“WISE has worked superbly,” said Ed Weiler, associate administrator of the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. “These first images are proving that the spacecraft's secondary mission of helping to track asteroids, comets and other stellar objects will be just as critically important as its primary mission of surveying the entire sky in infrared.”

One image shows the beauty of a comet called Siding Spring. As the comet parades toward the Sun, it sheds dust that glows in infrared light visible to WISE. The comet's tail, which stretches about 10 million miles, looks like a streak of red paint. A bright star appears

below it in blue.

“We've got a candy store of images coming down from space,” said Edward (Ned) Wright of UCLA, the principal investigator for WISE. “Everyone has their favorite flavors, and we've got them all.”

During its survey, the mission is expected to find perhaps dozens of comets, including some that ride along in orbits that take them somewhat close to Earth's path around the Sun. WISE will help unravel clues locked inside comets about how our solar system came to be.

Another image shows a bright and choppy star-forming region called NGC 3603, lying 20,000 light-years away in the Carina spiral arm of our Milky Way galaxy. This star-forming factory is churning out batches of new stars, some of which are monstrosities massive and hotter than the Sun. The hot stars warm the surrounding dust clouds, causing them to glow at infrared wavelengths.

WISE will see hundreds of similar star-making regions in our galaxy, helping astronomers piece together a picture of how stars are born. The observations also provide an important link to understanding violent episodes of star formation in distant galaxies. Because NGC 3603 is much closer, astronomers use it as a lab to probe the same type of action that is taking place billions of light-years away.

“All these pictures tell a story about our dusty origins and destiny,” said Peter Eisenhardt, the WISE project scientist at JPL. “WISE sees dusty comets and rocky asteroids tracing the formation and evolution of our solar system. We can map thousands of forming and dying solar systems across our entire galaxy. We can see patterns of star formation across other galaxies, and waves of star-bursting galaxies in clusters millions of light years away.” Other mission targets include comets, asteroids and cool stars called brown dwarfs. WISE discovered its first near-Earth asteroid on Jan. 12 and its first comet on Jan. 22. The mission will scan the entire sky one-and-a-half times by October 2010. At that point, the frozen coolant needed to chill its instruments will be depleted.

You can contact Bob Eklund at: b.eklund@MtnViewsNews.com.



The immense Andromeda galaxy, also known as Messier 31 or simply M31, is captured in full in this new image from NASA's Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer, or WISE. The mosaic covers an area equivalent to more than 100 full moons, or five degrees across the sky. WISE used all four of its infrared detectors to capture this picture. Andromeda is the closest large galaxy to our Milky Way galaxy, and is located 2.5 million light-years from our sun. Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/UCLA



It seems that every few years or so the modern computer user gets to go through the process of trading or upgrading an old personal computer with a new one. Even though the much-feared process has been made much simpler these days due to the availability of better hardware and software, the process can still often prove to be the stuff of nightmares. In the best of cases, when all the data elements involved are perfectly aligned with the spirits of the cosmos, the process works well the first time around with all the programs that worked before the change continuing to work in the same manner as they did after the change. Some of the more difficult permutations of this process include changing multiple major components at the same time, such as the Operating System and the computing platform. Although these harder upgrade options are best avoided whenever and wherever possible these scenarios are ultimately survivable and people get through them all the time.

Now imagine tackling an upgrade project of this nature and not having the option of turning the system off while the work was being undertaken. Imagine having the charge to upgrade the mission-critical systems that the major operations of a large organization depended upon to provide their services to the public and private sectors and also imagine that the systems to be upgraded ran outdated, customized software on equipment almost a generation old. To complete the challenge, multiply the number of systems

to be worked on by a factor of a hundred and at this point you just might have a clearer picture of the challenges being faced by the State of California as it ponders what to do about the ancient computer systems that are responsible for generating payroll checks for California's thousands of State employees. Although the system appears to be badly in need of repair, most of the efforts taken to date to remedy the situation have proven fruitless to the State (although they have proven quite lucrative for the contractors hired to complete the work). The Department of Motor Vehicles faced similar challenges in their efforts to upgrade their data processing systems although as of this date it does appear that there have been some concrete changes put in place that have worked as planned.

While a lasting permanent solution to the California's State Computing Infrastructure quandry is being sought the strong desire to just hand the whole troublesome heap over to some private contractor for resolution must be resisted since at this point all of the private sector solutions tried have come up woefully short due to any number of reasons. The initial installation of these same systems also proved challenging to the State and all parties involved as are most implementations of new technologies and the resolution of our current problems will be challenging as well. The difference between then and now is simply that failure is not an option.

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Current work includes writing the column, “Looking Up with Bob Eklund,” in Mountain Views News, and writing newsletters for the Mount Wilson Observatory. I recently published a book, First Star I See Tonight: an Exploration of Wonder, and am finishing a second book, Winds Aloft.

For writing samples and resume, see my web site: www.bobeklund.com. Bob Eklund beklund@sprynet.com (310) 216-5947

Collecting Rain Water

By Christopher Nyerges

[Nyerges is the author of “Self-Sufficient Home,” the editor of Wilderness Way magazine, and a proponent of wilderness and urban self-reliant living. He can be reached at Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041, or www.ChristopherNyerges.com.]

I was driving up a beautiful Pasadena street, with lined with tall deodar trees and almost a rural feel to it. I was admiring the beautiful houses and the well-kept gardens and trees, when I noticed it. “It” was totally out of place, though it should be common, something to find at every single home. Rain barrels!

The down-spout of the southwest corner of the house went into a rain barrel. I pulled over to get a better look. This was a large plastic barrel –the type that I'd seen used to import pickles into the United States. The entire lid could be screwed off to gain access to the water. The top had been modified with a screen to remove debris that came down from the roof, and a spigot was added to the bottom so one could easily use the collected rain water.

I had to see the rain barrel up close. I got out of my car and went up to the house, and met the owner Carol Kampe who was working in her yard. She happily gave me a tour of her rain collection system.

It turned out that she had not one, but 10 rain-collecting barrels strategically located to collect the most rain from the house and garage roofs. Two of the barrels were 65 gallons each, and the other eight were 60 gallons each. The rain thus collected is used for outdoor purposes only – watering her fruit trees and other plants in the yard.

“Generally, I have enough rain water in my barrels to last me until August,” says Kampe. This means that she is able to rely on the rain for watering her yard for approximately 2/3 of the year. She estimates that she saves perhaps \$300 a month in payments to the water company.



“But I don't do this for economic reasons,” Kampe adds. “I do it because we live in a desert here in Southern California. Water will become more critical as time goes on. So it is just a shame to waste all this good rain.”

Kampe has a common-sense approach to her rain harvesting, something that is easy to do and is both ecological and economical.

She was living in her home just a few years and then purchased seven of the rain-collecting barrels. She has since added three more. The barrels were purchased for about \$100 each by a company that modifies the pickle barrels into rain-collecting barrels. The company also provides hoses so that the barrels can be connected “daisy-chain,” so that the overflow of one barrel fills other barrels.

Rain barrels are not light, and water weighs a little over 8 pounds a gallon. That means a 60 gallon barrel full of rain water weighs in the neighborhood of 480 pounds. So when planning a rain collecting system like this, one has to recognize that the full barrel is not going to be moved. Other barrels can be connected to the barrel under the downspout so that the overflow can be collected in a spot away from the house.

Also, Kampe is able to simply unscrew the lid of her rain barrels and scoop out water as needed for individual plants.

Kampe laughed at all the current talk about “living green” as if it were something new. “We were doing all this back in the 1970s,” she says, describing how they recycled and collected rain in Indiana.



Emphasizing the need to save and conserve water where you have a desert and an ever-increasing population, Kampe echoes Santyana, pointing out that “anyone who doesn't read history is doomed to repeat it.”

She has all compact fluorescent lights (CFL) in her home. CFLs last about five times as long as conventional incandescent bulbs and use about one-quarter the energy. She also has light tubes which direct sunlight into the house, which means she doesn't need to use electricity for lighting during the day.

Though she considered a photo-voltaic solar electricity system, and solar water heating, the alignment of her house, as well as the abundance of nearby trees, makes such a system less than ideal.

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The Senior Spot

By Bruce Lamarche

Risks That Your Homeowner's Insurance Doesn't Cover

Most people are pretty comfortable with their homeowner's insurance coverage, but events like major storms, floods or the much feared California earthquake cause many to ask, "Does my coverage fully protect me?" The answer, in quite a few cases, is – no.

Homeowner's insurance is a package plan. This means it has several areas of coverage, broadly divided into two areas: property and liability. Property insurance provides coverage in four areas: dwelling (your home), other structures, personal property, and loss of use. We focus on home coverage.

Existing homeowner's coverage is not always adequate. For example, if your house has appreciated a great amount (say, more than 20 percent), and you have not increased your coverage, you may be underinsured. This may result in a penalty if you have a claim. Smaller increases of appreciation won't matter, but large ones may require additional coverage. Most of us in the LA area have experienced a drastic increase in value in the last few years.

Most policies on newer homes are written on an all risks or open perils basis. This means that, as long as something is not specifically excluded, it's covered. However, several risks or perils are almost always excluded. For instance, a few years ago most insurers stopped covering damage from mold, and unfortunately, there's not much to be done about that except to protect against mold in the first place (not always an easy task).

Earthquakes are also normally excluded from coverage. However, this coverage is usually available as an endorsement to the policy. We live on several fault lines and an earthquake is a possibility just about anywhere. Unfortunately, in Southern California, earthquake coverage can be expensive. We may fuss about the cost but this may be quite minimal when weighed against the catastrophic losses if we have "The Big One!"

Check the cost carefully. Weigh the cost of coverage against the deductible. Most policies have a 10% deductible. This means that the first \$50,000 of damage is not covered if your home is worth \$500,000. You have to decide about the probability of damage over \$50,000 versus the premium. This is something you want to talk to your agent about. Also, ask your agent if you are in a "flood zone."

What do you do if you have a claim and you think you are not being treated fairly? First, of course, talk with your agent or insurer's home office to clear up any possible misunderstandings. However, you may feel that you need a knowledgeable third party to help you through the process. For many people, that third party is a public adjuster. A public adjuster is a professional you hire to handle the details of your claim. They work for you – not the insurer, so they (arguably) have your best interest at heart. If you want to hire a public adjuster, start with their professional association: The National Association of Public Insurance Adjusters (NAPIA; see link below). You can search their website to find an adjuster.

Resources

- www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/index.jsp: the federal National Flood Insurance Program
- www.napia.com: National Association of Public Insurance Adjusters

You can reach Bruce 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, helps seniors make an informed decision about obtaining a reverse mortgage. www.LASeniorMortgage.com

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS

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please contact the Senior Desk
at (626) 355-7394

Older "Sierra Madre" American of the Year

The Senior Community Commission is now accepting nominations for the Older "Sierra Madre" American of the Year. If you know someone living in Sierra Madre who has demonstrated outstanding community service and is 60 years of age or older, please contact the Senior Services Desk at (626) 355-7394 for a nomination form.

Nominations are due to the Community & Personnel Services Department, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., by Monday, March 1, 2010. The Senior Community Commission will discuss nominees at its Study Session on March 4, 2010 and announce the honoree at their regular scheduled meeting also on March 4 at 3 pm in the City Council Chambers. The honoree will also be recognized at a reception held in their honor at the Sierra Madre Hart Park House in May.



Meals-On-Wheels

Meals are delivered to home-bound seniors by volunteer drivers through the YWCA Intervale Lunch Program M-F (with frozen meals for the weekend.) Call the YWCA at (626) 214-9460 or Darlene Traxler at (626) 355-0256 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
626.355.6220 or (626) 355-0256.

- **City of Sierra Madre's Community Services Commission is looking for two motivated, enthusiastic, creative, and friendly volunteers**
- to serve on the City's Ad Hoc Transit Committee and SMTV3 Committee.
- The City welcomes any interested residents to apply. Submit applications to the Community & Personnel Services Department at the Community Recreation Center, 611 E. Sierra Madre Boulevard. For an application, please visit www.cityofsierramadre.com look for commission/committee applications.
- For more information please call (626) 355-5278.

Recipe of the Week:

Apple Skillet Pancakes

INGREDIENTS:

3 eggs
1/2 cup (125 mL) milk
1/2 cup (125 mL) all purpose flour
1 tbsp. (15 mL) granulated sugar
1 tsp. (5 mL) vanilla
2 tbsp. (30 mL) butter
3 medium apples, peeled, cored and sliced
1/4 cup (50 mL) brown sugar
powdered sugar for dusting
maple syrup, if desired

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 500 degrees F (260 degrees C). In the container of a blender or food processor, combine the eggs, milk, flour, granulated sugar and vanilla. Blend until smooth, scraping down the sides of the container to make sure everything is evenly blended. Set aside. Melt the butter over medium-high heat in a 10-inch (25-cm) nonstick skillet that can go into the oven. When the butter is foamy, add the sliced apples and the brown sugar. Cook, stirring occasionally, for about 10 minutes or until the apples are tender and beginning to brown. Remove from heat. Pour the mixture from the blender over the apples in the pan and place the pan into the preheated oven. Immediately reduce the oven temperature to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C). Bake for 16 to 18 minutes, or until the batter is browned and slightly puffed. Remove from oven and dust with powdered sugar. Cut into wedges and serve with maple syrup, if desired. Serves 4

February Birthdays



Lorraine Bush, Susan Henderson, Hilda Pittman, Ursula El-Tawansy, Sylvia Lorhan, Ann Luke, Janet O'Day, Ana Ptasinski, Jannene Reed, Winifred Swanson

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:
1:00 pm to 1:45 pm: Strength training with Lisa Brandley. FREE class of stretching with light hand weights while you sit.
Tuesday:
2nd Tuesday of each month FREE blood pressure checks by Methodist Hospital; 11 am to 12 noon
3rd Tuesday of each month FREE financial consulting; 10 -12 noon call 355-7394 for an appointment
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm: BINGO; cards are only 25 cents each so stop by & play
5:30 pm to 7 pm: Yoga; \$7.00 - 50 & over. Please call 355-5278 for more information
Wednesday:
11 -11:45 am: Balance Class with Teryl. FREE class designed to improve

balance & refresh the joints
2nd Wednesday of the month: FREE Legal Consultations: 10-11:30 am. Appointments call 355-7394
Wii Wednesday - 1:00 pm or call the senior desk at 355-7394 to arrange another time & day to learn how to play. No previous experience or skills required and it is great exercise.
Thursday:
1:00 to 3:30 pm: Game Day. Join us for UNO and Poker with Bridge on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays; so please call for more information.
5:00 pm to 6:30 pm: Yoga; \$7.00 - 50 & over. Please call 355-5278 for more information
Friday:
1:00 pm: Ping Pong
Saturday: 11:30 am: Senior Club brown bag lunch and BINGO at 12:30 pm

Free Lawn Bowling Lessons: The Santa Anita Bowling Green Club will have beginning lawn bowling lessons each Saturday morning starting at 10:00 AM. Located just north of the golf course at 405 S. Santa Anita Ave.<free parking> For information call Gene at 626.351-5327.



Margi Rambo delivers a bowl in a Triples Tournament at the Santa Anita Bowling Green Club's Greens at the Arcadia County Park. (Photo by Gene Plunkett)

We all watched Curling in the Olympic games, but did you know that that sport on ice has a cousin on grass? Yup. Sure does. You may have heard the terms, Lead, 2nd Lead, Vice and Skip applied to the players. Even the Hog line was mentioned quite often. But hurling a 38-pound chunk of granite down the ice for about 140 feet can get rather tiring, not to mention the frosty tootsies you have to stand on for over an hour.

Being located in Southern California, Curling's cousin, Lawn Bowling is very similar except for the ice, heavy granite rocks and the portion of the course that's known as "The House." We call that the "Head." Where you deliver from is called the "Mat end."

Like Curling, Lawn Bowling started long ago in the British Isles. Scotland, Ireland or England, it doesn't matter. Kings and Queens played Lawn Bowls; it was banned because the archers were bowling instead of shooting arrows. Even Shakespeare and Walt Disney were bowlers. Of course Sir Francis Drake was playing bowls with Sir Walter Raleigh, when the Spanish Armada came to invade England. Sir Francis told the messenger that when they had finished their game he would attend to the Spanish. This was in 1588.

Lawn Bowls came to the "colonies" around 1615 or there about. The Brits brought it over. George Washington's dad built a bowling green at Mount

Vernon when George was born, and there is still a bowling green at Williamsburg, still in use.

The major differences in Curling and Lawn Bowling is that in bowling we use "bowls" in stead of a rock. These bowls have a built in bias that makes the bowl curve in one direction. Of course if you want to bowl in the other direction you turn the bowl over. Instead of a "House" Lawn Bowling has a "Head." This is where your target is located. The "Jack." It's about the size of a cue ball, and is solid white. The idea of the game is to get more of your team's bowls closer to the Jack than your opponents. If you are bowling a single, or a double game, you use four bowls each. A triple team use only three bowls each and for the Rinks game, each of the four bowlers only gets two bowls.

The bowling surface is called a "green" and the alley or "rink" you bowl on is usually around 120 feet long and between 14 and 16 feet wide. A game of triples lasts about two hours. The sport is easily learned. Many students that never played can be taught enough to get them started 1 two to three FREE lessons. We have all of the equipment needed and all we really need is interested students. The bowls weigh about 3 pound each so small children can't handle them well. Anyone up to the age of 120 that can walk 120 feet at a time, bend over and pick up the bowls and roll them down the rink is surely welcome.

One nice thing about Lawn Bowling is that when it rains or snows, or freezes, we stay home by the fire and watch Curling. If you think you might like to try Lawn Bowling, come by the Arcadia County Park, just south of Huntington Drive on South Santa Anita Avenue and give it a look. Best times are Tuesday morning and Saturday morning at 9 AM. There's usually a group of happy folks rolling their bowls. Lessons can be arranged to fit your schedule by calling Gene Plunkett at 626-351-5327. He can give you all the information you'll ever need. If you have a computer visit our web site at: www.lawnbowling-arcadia.com <<http://www.lawnbowling-arcadia.com>> .

We have room for about 50 more bowlers in our club, so beat the crowd and come and give Lawn Bowling a try. It's a lot easier than Curling on ice.. Burrrrrrrrrrr. See you on the greens.

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

Wednesday 3-7pm

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 parking on Mariposa.**



Chris Bertrand

One Of A Kind: *Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them* Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

Just listed in Sierra Madre: *A home with private space for everyone!*

This nearly 4500 square foot home is tucked away at the end of a cul de sac in Northern Sierra Madre. Now five bedrooms and four baths, this elegant yet comfortable residence was beautifully redesigned and expanded from a modest single story in 1990 and meticulously maintained in the interim. It's the kind of home that can handle a big crowd easily and graciously. It's also the kind of home where every family member can find their own bit of privacy, even if all the five bedrooms are occupied.

Designed to enjoy the best of our Southern California lifestyle, most of the rooms open to a patio or a balcony, for comfortable indoor to outdoor living. The pool is definitely the drawing card in the back yard, with added enjoyment to be gleaned from a large spa and built-in barbeque. The pool stretches nearly the width of the lot, bringing that sparkling cyan blue water and redwood deck into the color palette of the lush, treed view.

Across the entire back of the home, an expansive second floor balcony overlooks the pool, with both sunny and shaded spots to enjoy this area from the master suite and another bedroom. Nighttime city lights twinkle below for a mesmerizing view after dark. On the main level, the balcony above creates shade across the matching patio below that serves the kitchen, casual dining area and the family room. The dining room boasts yet another private outdoor space, perfect to expand the formal dining experience outward, perhaps for pre-dinner drinks. Outside the living room, at the front door, a patio and bench provide the perfect place to rest from a friendly game of croquet in the spacious front yard. My favorite outdoor living space, however, looks out to the San Gabriel Mountains from a second floor living area. The mountains seem right at eye level here, the perfect vantage where you can almost reach out and touch the peaks. Inside this room, several flexible usages come to mind. Certainly the walls of beautiful bookcases and fireplace suggest a second family room, a library or home office. The space is actually large enough to be split into two rooms, creating yet another bedroom, if needed for an expansive household.

The masters of the household enjoy a separate retreat or office space with French doors to the balcony, immediately adjacent to the master bedroom and private bath. The walk in closet, as with all the storage in the house, is very generous.

The three main floor bedrooms, in a private wing, offer an opportunity for comfortable yet separate living if two families or two generations wish to cohabitate. One of these would make a perfect guest room or live-in accommodation, with its outside entrance and nearly hidden private, shaded patio.

The hub of the home is definitely the kitchen and casual dining area, with sunny table seating for at least six overlooking the pool. Breakfast bar seating is also a great place for children to do homework while the night's chef prepares dinner in the great kitchen with center preparation island. The kiddos



can be close by for questions, but out of the fray of meal preparation. Sierra Madre-based, Debbie L. Talianko, a certified interior designer and Allied ASID member, beautifully updated the adjacent family room in 2007. Drawing the color scheme from a Diego Rivera artwork hung in the room, she wove both neutral and bold tones from the piece into the room's palette. Doug Huff Painting lightened some of the wood work with an antique finish on the wet bar and glass doors and lighting were added to the cabinetry. Granite counters and a distinctive tile backsplash were created by Design Stone Gallery.

Don't miss the greatest treat of all, a huge pantry/ work room off the main kitchen. The generous granite counter space here is a boon for craft and hobby use. You can leave a project in process out while working on it, yet it remains out of sight in the living space. If your household hosts large parties, multiple cooks can prepare without stepping on each other's toes, and the extra dishwasher and sink are a dream come true for staging large scale meals or professional catering setup.

320 Wisteria Way will be offered at \$1,239,000 by Michael Paris and Michelle Chen of Coldwell Banker beginning March 1. The agents can be reached at 626-840-7007 or through their website, www.MikeParisHomes.com. The home will be open next weekend on Sunday, March 7, from 1-4 p.m.

Know of an interesting home, garden or person who helps create them? Send the details to Chris at C.Bertrand@MtnViewsNews.com.

**Tips of the Trade:
Real Estate Revealed**
by Luther Tsinoglou

**A CHORE
NEXT DOOR**

While not a very common problem, if you've got it, it can have a terrible impact on your listing: The Messy Neighbor. If you live next door to a "neglected" property, you might lose up to 20% of your home's market value, particularly with buyers looking for any excuse to reduce their offer.

It's technically not your problem, but ask not for whom the bell tolls. It's well worth your time and effort to resolve this situation amicably. Always be respectful, and don't let your emotions get the best of you.

Unless you believe your neighbor is "unhinged," you should begin with a visit to their home and a positive attitude - no name-calling or finger-pointing. Don't grab everyone on the block and gang up on your neighbor - you'll get better results if you go alone or with one other person.

If you find your messy neighbor is unwilling to

take care of their maintenance, it may still be in your best interest to do the work yourself or with the help of other neighbors. No, it's not fair, but if you want a fair sales price, this may be your only option.

As a last resort, you could file a complaint with your property owners association or city government. You could be referred to a mediator who will help settle your disagreement cordially.

Luther Tsinoglou has just been named the top producing sales agent in Dickson Podley Realtor's Sierra Madre office for 2009, making the top 10% at the company overall. Luther has been licensed and practicing real estate since 1992. He specializes in residential and income property in Southern California. Luther can be reached at his direct line (626) 695-8650 or at luther@tsinoglou.com.

Luther & Georgina
TSINOGLOU
Working on Common Ground

<p>198 N. Lima St. Sierra Madre OPEN HOUSE * Sunday, 2-4 pm * \$699,500</p> <p>Spacious 3 bd, 2 ba with living room, dining room, master suite, laundry, attic, separate artist studio that can be used as 4th bedroom. Updated electrical, A/C & heat, new carpets & paint, deck & garage/workshop. 2,283 sq.ft. on a 7,200sq.ft. lot.</p>	<p>4519 Elrovio Ave. El Monte New Listing!</p> <p>Roomy 3 bd, 1 ba, formal living room w/ fireplace, dining room, spacious kitchen & private rear yard. Home offers a 2-car garage, laundry hook ups, rear patio, newer roof and options to expand. Apprx. 1,300 sq.ft. on a apprx. 8,800 sq.ft. lot.</p>
<p>1619 Whitefield Rd. Pasadena \$2,975/month</p> <p>FOR LEASE This gorgeous 1913 updated Craftsman offers 3 bd, 2 ba, living room w/ fireplace, kitchen w/ granite counters, built-in stainless appliances. Hardwood floors, new copper plumbing, & updated electrical. 2-car carport & wrap around porch.</p>	<p>560 W. Duarte Rd. Monrovia \$1,395/month</p> <p>FOR LEASE Updated 2 bd, 1-ba unit offers kitchen w/ new cabinets, dishwasher, microwave, stove, A/C & heat, new bath, wood floors, custom moldings & paint & updated windows. Building offers laundry facilities, BBQ area/patio and covered parking. Apprx. 975 sq.ft.</p>
<p>6203 Avon Ave. San Gabriel SOLD * \$900,000</p> <p>SOLD Custom built 4 bd, 4 ba home with formal living room, dining area, large family room, custom kitchen, den/home office and 3-car garage. Built in 2004.</p>	<p>My mommy and daddy were the top producing sales agents in Sierra Madre in 2009!</p>

Doll house or dream home, it pays to consult a professional you can trust. Let us make your dream a reality.

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Sunday, March 14, 2010

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Downtown Festival 9am—5pm

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- Kids Attractions
- Gateway Coach Roundtrip from Goldline Sierra Madre Villa Station to Sierra Madre will be free on this day only, 10am to 6pm

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GOOD NEWS!!

You can now order your shuttle tickets to view the world-famous Sierra Madre Wistaria Vine at the Wistaria Festival online, at www.WistariaTickets.com. Presale tickets are just \$10 round trip, but if you wait till the day of the festival, the price is \$15! So order your tickets NOW! Have your credit card handy, and order with our fast, secure online ticket sales set-up. This year we've teamed up with Admit One products so you can order safely and quickly, and print your ticket right in the comfort of your own home, as you order!

For more information about the festival visit www.WistariaFestival.com.