



Don't Forget to *Spring Forward*...Daylight Savings Time Begins March 14, 2010

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

SATURDAY MARCH 13, 2010

VOLUME 4 NO. 10



SIERRA MADRE CAMPAIGN COVERAGE

As indicated in previous editions, the Mountain Views News, in an effort to give those running for city council the same opportunity to introduce themselves to the public, has asked them to answer the following two questions:

1. Why are you running for city council?
 2. What will you do for Sierra Madre?
- Candidates answers are printed as submitted without editing.

Incumbent Joe Mosca

It has been an honor and privilege to have served as your City Council Member for the past four years and to have fought for our town.

I am very proud of successes that have marked my first term on the Sierra Madre City Council. We successfully fought to establish a paramedic program and implement major changes in public safety, which have made us safer. We worked hard to balance our budget, without any program cuts, and put away more money in reserves; we updated and repaired our water system; we created the first city park since the 1970s; we protected our hillsides against unreasonable development; and we lobbied and successfully received significant grant funding for Sierra Madre.

While a lot has been accomplished, there are old and new challenges that are facing our town: building upon our successes in the area of public safety to ensure that we are providing the best service and that we are the safest city in the state, maintaining the same level of city services in the face of state budget cutbacks, take-a-ways, and unfunded mandates, preserving our community, and conserving precious resources, such as water and energy.

I have dedicated myself to running and serving for another term as your City Council Member because I feel that my experience and leadership skills will be instrumental in ensuring that we continue to move forward, and that we do so by proactively meeting our challenges.

I believe that if we roll up our sleeves and get down to work, there are no challenges that we can't meet. And, when we meet these challenges, we preserve our town for ourselves and for our children.

I would be honored to have your support.

If you have any questions, please contact me at: joemosca@joemosca.com or via my home telephone number (836-8580). Thanks! Joe



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.

REVISED MV NEWS ELECTION COVERAGE

Next Week: 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

ARCADIA CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM TUESDAY, MARCH 23rd AT 7PM,

The forum will be held at the Women's Club, First & El Dorado Street - Arcadia.

The event is sponsored by the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce, Arcadia Association of REALTORS, Arcadia Weekly and Arcadia Women's Club. This is your opportunity to meet the

candidates, ask questions and become better acquainted with your city. Light refreshments will be served.

All Arcadia residents are welcome and encouraged to attend, and all candidates have been invited to participate. Get the straight facts from the candidates themselves.

Community Support Needed To Save Local Treasure: The Sierra Madre Playhouse Continues On

By La Quetta M. Shamblee

The illumination of the marquee at Sierra Madre Playhouse hints at the brilliant talent that keeps the place humming with a season of seven productions a year. With no paid staff, this ninety-nine seat theatre has not only raised the bar, but has set impeccable standards for everything that happens both on, and off stage. The high ceiling and raised stage provide the feel of a much larger theatre. Impressive professional stage sets designed by Dan Calhoun create a realistic, three-dimensional backdrop for costumer Lois Tedrow to adorn the actors. Audience members come from as far away as San Diego and Santa Barbara to experience the performances.

The leadership and artistic team have established a reputation for presenting major works in a small, community-based theatre. Hometown resident, Ward Calaway has been affiliated with the nonprofit community arts agency since the late 90's, and at the helm as board president since 2001. Years ago when the founder had reached a financial impasse, he approached the city for help and fortunately, ignited the interest of someone willing to help. George Enyedi, the current City Treasurer, using all of his Hungarian charm, convinced some key talent within his personal and professional network and a few local contractors to help get the "house" in order. He is also responsible for pulling Calaway into the fray. It worked and the Playhouse continues.

Originally opened in the 20's, the facility operated as a movie house through the 70's until the theatre was established. Seats in the front half of the building were removed to make way for the kitchen and spacious hallway used to host lite buffets and champagne receptions for the opening performance of each new play. "Da" (which means "Dad" in Ireland) is the current and second production in



A colorful "The Wizard of Oz" performance spilled out onto the streets last year when the adult cast from June Chandler's Actors Workshop provided an afternoon of interactive children's theatre, with all youngsters in the audience playing munchkins. An infamous yellow brick road wound down from the stage, through the theatre and out the front door to the delight of onlookers.

Back by popular demand, Chandler and The Sierra Madre Players will kick off Sierra Madre's Children's Theatre Repertoire with Dorothy, the tin man, the scarecrow, the lion and Toto at 2:30pm on March 23rd. Chandler is an accomplished artist with a generosity and commitment that will translate into forty performances of various works for young audiences before the end of the year. Adults who have honed their skills in her Saturday

afternoon "For the Love of Acting" workshops at the theatre will take to the stage after months of preparation, a recital of sorts. With tickets at only \$12 for children under twelve and \$18 for adults, they expect another round of sold-out performances for these special afternoon performances on March 23rd, 27th, and April 3rd. The February 7th closing of Pasadena Playhouse is an unwelcomed cultural casualty, and frankly, the artistic and geographic proximity make it too close for comfort. Fortunately, there are enough Foothill-area residents to respond to a special community casting call of support for the Sierra Madre Playhouse. The shows must, and can go on with revenue from ticket sales, theatre rentals, acting workshops and cash donations. Consider an afternoon or evening of local theatre for family

entertainment, a night out with friends, a pair of tickets as a gift or to surprise or thank someone. Sierra Madre Playhouse is located at 87 West Sierra Madre Boulevard, 91024. For the season schedule, information and tickets, visit www.sierramadreplayhouse.org or call (626) 355-4318.



this year's line-up. "An Irishman's tale of life, love and one pesky ghost," this Hugh Leonard work that garnered the prestigious Tony Award and the New York Drama Critic's Award is directed by Bill Mesnick. Actors will take the stage each Friday and Saturday at 8pm, and on Sundays 2:30 through April 17th.

Candidate Forum Leaves More Questions than Answers

By Dean Lee

It was standing room only Monday night as seven candidates running for city council squared off over issues ranging from a new parcel tax funding the school district's budget deficit to Senate Bill 375. Questions were fielded by the audience during the event hosted by the League of Women Voters and the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce. Voters go to the polls on April 13, 2010 to select three candidates for the City Council. The candidates include Incumbents Don Watts and Joe Mosca, Blogger John Crawford, aka "Sir Eric", Pat Alcorn, Josh Moran, Bill Tice and Senior Commissioner Nancy Walsh,

About half way through the night, the question was asked, "Do you support the current direction of the council?" The question seemed to immediately polarize the candidates, Crawford and long time resident Pat Alcorn both said yes. Candidates Nancy Walsh, Josh Moran and Mosca all said the council needed to stop being so divisive. "There is a lack of willingness to work with the other side," Walsh said. "I think we are all here representing all of the people, the people on the council represent all of the citizens. I think they ought to be working together for a better city."

Watts said he just wished more residents

would show up to the council meetings.

When asked their opinion of SB375 which was passed in 2008 and requires the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to set regional targets for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles, for 2020 and 2035. At least two of the candidates, John Crawford and Pat Alcorn, have made SB 375 a cornerstone of their campaigns. Candidates Crawford, Watts and Alcorn all implied they feared it was state government's way of forcing unwanted development.

"SB375 links the land use, housing and transportation element to a to a transportation corridor in order to curb urban sprawl," Alcorn said. "In Sierra Madre we don't have a chance for urban sprawl, the only thing we can do is go up or to become more dense." Alcorn warned that it would only take a vote of the council to link the city to a transportation corridor.

Watts said SB375 was the "strong arm" of Assembly Bill 32, which he then defined saying it was a way to reduce greenhouse gases to 1990 levels. Watts also said the bill streamlined the environmental review process making it easier to push through unwanted projects.

Crawford summed up his arguments by saying the bill had (cont. on page 3)

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Complete Wistaria Festival Information Section B

During March
Wistaria Festival Special
\$5 bagel & Lox

March 27, "Girl Scout Cookie Sell"
Event at Niko's

Unleash your
inner Irish!

Have an Irish
Cream Latte!

Niko & friends
Coffee Deli

Corner of N Michillinda and W Montecito
M-F: 7 to 6, Sat 8:30 to 1:30, Closed Sunday

Luther & Georgina TSINOGLOU

Working on Common Ground

198 N. Lima St. Sierra Madre
FOR SALE * \$699,500

OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, March 14 at 2-4pm
All are welcome! Refreshments provided.



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.



1619 Whitefield Rd. Pasadena
\$2,975/month



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.

560 W. Duarte Rd. Monrovia
\$1,395/month



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.

4519 Elrovia Ave. El Monte
New Listing!



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.

Don't
forget to set
your clocks ahead
one hour this
Sunday!



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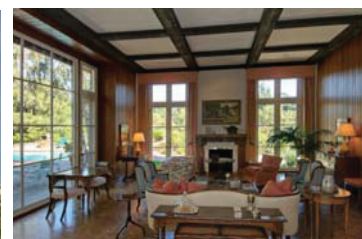
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5 Bedrooms and 5 Baths

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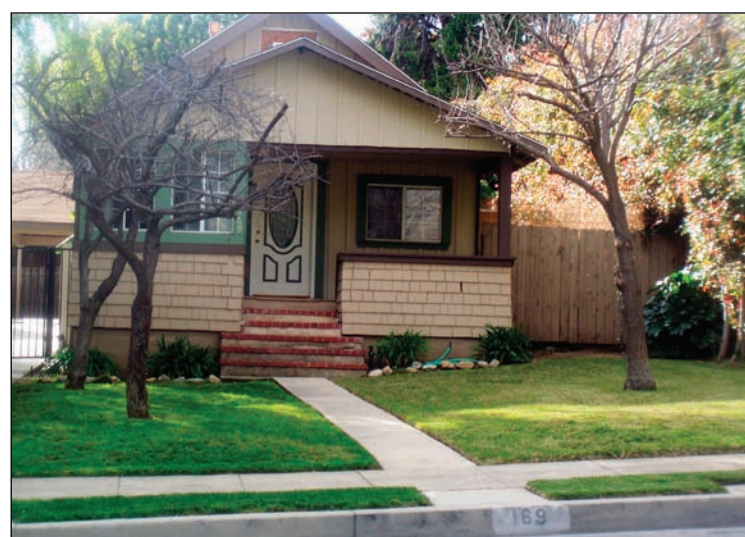
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Sierra Madre. 2 bedroom, 1 bath.
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Weather Wise



5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

BARGAIN BOOK SALE

The Sierra Madre Public Library is the place to go in March for the "Savin' o' the Green"—greenbacks, that is! The Friends of the Library will hold a table sale inside the Library, Monday, March 15 through Saturday, March 20, during the Library's open hours. This month's featured topics will include Fiction, Mysteries, Biographies, Current Affairs, Children and Teens, and Specialty Books. All books are in good condition and will be sold at the bargain price of \$1.00 each. These every-other-month book sales provide funding for Library resources and programs.

The Sierra Madre Public Library, located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, is open Monday through Wednesday from Noon to 9 p.m., Thursday and Friday from Noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed on all major holidays. For information on all our Library activities and services, please call (626) 355-7186, or visit our website at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us.

OPEN STUDIO TOUR

Through an Open Studio Tour on June 6, 2010, the Friends of the Sierra Madre Arts in partnership with the Community Arts Commission will spotlight local artists to provide citizens an opportunity to enjoy the remarkable creativity found within our village. To be considered for this juried event, complete the application attached. Return applications to Open Studio Tour – Sierra Madre, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024, no later than Monday, March 8, 2010. Please see the attached application. The City will be selling tickets for the tour in advance for \$15 and \$20 at the door. Proceeds from ticket sales will go towards Sierra Madre public arts programs.

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 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.

Sierra Madre. Both parties feel that without her expertise this book would not have been possible.

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

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).

STORY SPECTACULAR

St. Patrick's Day! – March 18th at 2:00 p.m. An hour long holiday program for ages 5 through 12. Celebrate the luck of the Irish as we enjoy holiday themed stories, a short film, songs, craft and snacks! The Monrovia Public Library, located at 321 S. Myrtle Avenue, offers many programs for children of all ages. For more information contact Youth Services Librarian Shawn Thrasher at (626) 256-8254, email sthrasher@ci.monrovia.ca.us, or click <http://www.cityofmonrovia.org>.

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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.

Have a Feast, Build a Well, Save a Village

On Tuesday, March 23, Sierra Madre's Episcopal Church of the Ascension will hold its Fellowship and Fundraising Dinner, an annual event that offers a unique opportunity to share fine food, distinguished wines and friendship in the service of bringing life-giving water to a village in the Third World.

At 6:30 p.m. in the church's Parish Hall, former Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti, who has forged a second career as an acclaimed documentary photographer, will describe how building one water well can change the life of an entire village. Building a well is the goal of Ascension's Water Well Outreach Project, formed in collaboration with the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. One-half of the evening's proceeds will go to the project.

At 7:30, Claud Beltran and his staff from Pasadena's Noir Food and Wine will serve a sumptuous six-course dinner, each course accompanied by a selected wine. The menu will include a cheese and salad course, followed by entrees of roasted sea bass and grilled hanger steak, a second cheese serving and a delicious strudel and compote dessert. Cost is \$100 per person. Deadline for reservations is March _____. To reserve, call Scott Callihan at (626) 359-5993, Anna Thomas at (626) 351-8492 or David Mole at (626) 355-2723.

Church of the Ascension is located at 25 E. Laurel Ave., at the northeast corner of Laurel and N. Baldwin Ave.



Two Voters' Forums In Sierra Madre

On Tuesday, March 16, the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club will present a Candidates Forum for the benefit of Sierra Madre voters. The forum will provide an opportunity for residents to hear the thoughts and ideas of the seven candidates running for City Council seats. Three City Councilpersons will be chosen in the election of April 13, 2010.

This informative meeting will begin at noon. An optional lunch will served at 11:30am. The cost for lunch is \$10 per person; reservations and exact change are required.

The following Tuesday, March 23rd, the Kiwanis Club will present a forum to inform the public about a Measure CC, a proposed parcel tax that would affect residents of Sierra Madre, Altadena, and Pasadena. Measure CC, sponsored by the Pasadena Unified School District, would levy a tax of \$120 per parcel on residents within the PUSD, as a means of funding PUSD schools. Both "For" and "Against" positions will be presented, and questions from the audience will be addressed.

This forum will begin at 7:30 AM; a continental breakfast will be served, hosted by the Kiwanis Club. There is no charge, but reservations are required.

Both forums will be held at the Masonic Hall, at 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre.

To make lunch reservations, please call Harriet Lyle at (626) 355-6786.

Guests who have difficulty hearing the PA sound should bring a portable radio with headphones; the PA sound will be broadcast on 104.7-FM.

Please attend a Canyon Community Meeting on the planning process for the:

RESIDENTIAL CANYON ZONE

March 22, 2010 - 7p.m.
Recreation Center
611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre Room

Regulations pertaining to the development of the Residential Canyon Zone have been discussed and studied over the past 27 years. Beginning with the 1972 General Plan Canyon sub-committee, this process continued with the 1996 General Plan Canyon sub-committee and again with another Canyon Committee, in 2005 – yet the Canyon Zone was never finished.

In April 2009 the current 5-member committee began reviewing the 4th draft of the zoning provisions goals and objectives that were previously developed for the Residential Canyon Zone designation.

The committee has been reviewing zoning guidelines as they apply to the unique nature of the canyon, such as building massing, height limitations, property line setbacks, building square footage and lot coverage, parking requirements, design, landscaping, fencing, protection for the 1972 Wildlife Sanctuary designation of the city, night-sky lighting and noise. The circumstances for allowable deviations or exceptions from standards, the permit process and Conditional Use Permits have been discussed.

Foremost in the discussions has been the goal of preservation of the unique residential setting and rustic and historic character of the Canyon. Your input is important to this process. These two community meetings are in addition to the regular open monthly meetings, held on the third Tuesdays of the month at 7p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

The final draft will go to the Planning Commission for further discussion and public input and then to the City Council for public hearings and adoption after further discussion and subsequent revisions.

Canyon Residential Zone Committee Members:
John Herrmann, Chair; Caroline Brown, Vice-Chair; Michael Howard, Jim Monachino and Sherry Robison

Supporting documentation, including Draft Residential Canyon Code to-date, is available on City's website: http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/index.php?mod=planning_zoning

The Sierra Madre Woman's Club presents

Breezing Into Summer

Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon

Fashions by Magnolia

Saturday, March 27, 2010

11:30am to 2:00pm

Essick House

550 West Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Tickets: \$25.00

Reservations: Mary Alice
(626) 294-9016

Deadline: Monday, March 22, 2010

Proceeds benefit
Sierra Madre Woman's Club Charities

THE GREAT TOMATO SALE & TALK

At The Arboretum

301 No. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia, Ca. 91007

When: Wednesday, March 24 at 10am
Where: Palm Room & and Gift Shop Patio
Instructor: Steve Goto – Tomato Guru
Cost: Free to Members / Free to Non-Members with Arboretum Admission

Back by popular demand for the 9th year!! Join us for a fascinating (and very funny) talk by Steve Goto...and his Top 25 Tomato Picks for 2010! Learn all the tricks to successful planting and harvesting of the best tomatoes for this area.

Attend THE GREAT TOMATO SALE in the patio behind the Gift Shop. We will have 100 flats of tomato plants...and they do sell quickly!!!

Rotary Speaker to Highlight Doctor's Haiti Trip on March 23 "A Broken But Not Beaten Haiti"

Pasadena Chiropractor and Sierra Madre Rotary member, Dr. Michael Budincich will speak on his February emergency relief trip to earthquake ravaged Haiti. Dr Budincich flew his single engine Cessna bush plane to Florida, and from there ferried medical personnel, medicines, with funding for our Sierra Madre Fire Dept, Sierra Madre Search and Rescue, local parks, library, schools and their faculty, individuals, and other organizations. Sierra Madre Rotary is always looking for a few committed members who love to serve city, community, and world needs with worthy



dressings and crutches to and from outlying Haitian areas. His years of bush flying skills and "STOL" bush aircraft configured to land on grass or short airstrips, were critically needed because larger aircraft were unable to land in these remote areas. Some of the outlying cites away from Port au Prince were cut off by road damage and refugee traffic and previously without any aid at all. In between flights, he took X-Rays of broken bones for surgeons, administered chiropractic help, wound care, casting and splinting. His first-hand person experiences will put a "personal face" on the land and people of Haiti. The brave souls who volunteered put their lives "on hold" to help there, and will show the indomitable power of the altruistic human spirit. Sierra Madre Rotary Club is a community service and business network club that serves the local community projects, like the current fundraising effort to eradicate polio worldwide. Dr Budincich's slide show and presentation on Haiti is open to the public, and those interested in finding out more about the work of Sierra Madre Rotary. All are invited to attend and see the images of a broken but not beaten Haiti. Dr. Budincich will speak at the weekly morning Rotary meeting on Tuesday, March 23 at 7 A.M. at "Cafe 322" restaurant located at 322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre. Breakfast is complimentary to first time visitors by RSVP to Cathy Hundshamer at chunds@roadrunner.com or by calling 626 447-8687.

*For more info please contact :
Chris Bertrand at 925-963-3991 or Chris@Bertrandonline.com
Dr. Michael Budincich at 626-792-3390 or DrBud@DrBud.com
Cathy Hundshamer at 626 447-8687 or chunds@roadrunner.com*

PUSD ISSUES LAYOFF NOTICES

Preliminary Notices to be issued to 164 Teachers, Counselors, Librarians, Nurses, & Administrators

The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education last night ordered layoff notices for more than 164 teachers, nurses, librarians, counselors, and administrators in an effort to close a \$23 million funding gap caused by an 18 percent cut in state funding. California law requires school districts to inform certificated (i.e., employees who must have a state credential or certificate) employees about potential layoffs by March 15.

The meeting, held at McKinley School's auditorium to accommodate an anticipated large audience, included passionate speeches from PUSD high school students, parents, teachers and other employees.

"Our budget crisis is neither a simple nor short-term dilemma, and we must work to influence the way Sacramento funds public schools to reflect the priorities of our community," said Board of Education President Tom Selinske. "I applaud the sacrifices that everyone in PUSD is making to save jobs and protect the momentum of accelerated student achievement."

One of three unions and the association of management employees that represent PUSD employees have agreed to unpaid work furloughs in order to save jobs and protect classrooms. Teamsters, who represent the district's maintenance workers, agreed to a five-day unpaid furlough in 2010-11. The association of PUSD administrators also agreed to a five-day unpaid furlough. CSEA, the union that represents mostly clerical workers agreed in concept to furlough days. The furlough days also apply to the District's top management. The District is at impasse with the United Teachers of Pasadena, and scheduled to begin mediation on March 23.

A number of high school students from Marshall, Blair, Pasadena High and Muir spoke passionately about the impact of music and arts programs on their lives. Most were there in an effort to save the jobs of music and arts teachers.

"After a string of firsts in regional and state awards, will the class of 2010 be the last installment of a glorious tradition of instrumental and choral music education?" asked Marshall High School senior Ashley Thaxon.

After hearing from students, parents, teachers and employee union representatives, Superintendent Edwin Diaz said, "I came into this meeting extremely discouraged and worried for public education in Pasadena and in California. I am encouraged and inspired by the comments we heard tonight from students, teachers and parents because we have the right ingredients to weather this Sacramento budget crisis together."

Known as "reduction in force" notices, the March 15 letters are preliminary and are required when school districts need to close budget gaps. These letters are sometimes rescinded when school districts and employee unions negotiate agreements, or alternative funding is identified when the state revises its budget in May. Final notices must be issued to certificated employees by May 15.

"I truly believe that we all need to work together to be part of the solution," said Superintendent Diaz, who has taken a voluntary permanent salary cut to help save jobs.

Layoff notices for classified employees (those that do not require a credential) will be issued not later than May 15.

The Board of Education has placed a \$120 tax per residential and commercial parcel on the May 4 ballot in order to minimize the impact of lost revenue and help shrink a \$23 million budget gap.

After making \$6 million in reductions last year, the PUSD Board of Education approved the use of one-time federal stimulus dollars to avoid teacher layoffs this year. At that time, the budget gap for 2010-11 was projected to be between \$16 and 18 million. But PUSD's budget deficit grew to \$23 million in January, when Governor Schwarzenegger's budget proposed additional significant reductions to public education in California.

As a result of limited expenditures and a de facto hiring freeze, PUSD central offices have saved \$4 million this year.

"What will carry us through these times are the inspiring stories of our students, and the extraordinary potential they demonstrated tonight," said School Board Member Elizabeth Pomeroy.

Not So Lonely Anymore – Help from Guide Dogs of America

"I always felt so sad, seeing a blind person, alone," shared Guide Dogs of America spokesperson and Sierra Madre resident, Susan Renwick, as she prepared to speak at Camino Grove Elementary School in Arcadia, where I teach 4th grade. As my Sierra Madre neighbor, Renwick had graciously offered to speak at my school, knowing that I was a teacher.

On March 5, Renwick met with our 4th graders with these goals in mind: to educate them on the guide dog program; to promote acceptance of people with differences; and to connect real life experience to literature that they read on individuals with blindness, as part of Arcadia Unified School District's 4th grade language arts curriculum. Renwick, 63, decided to do something to help isolate people with blindness by becoming a volunteer puppy raiser for Guide Dogs of America in 1998. Since then she has raised five puppies with the last pup, named Eleah, being chosen as a breeder for the program. Renwick and her past pups have always enjoyed speaking with various groups of all ages sharing the Guide Dogs of America story. Now with Eleah, Renwick continues to enjoy that tradition.

One of the things that Renwick loves most about being part of the Guide Dogs of America program is witnessing the teamwork that takes place between a guide dog and their human partner. "It gives me goose bumps," smiled Renwick, pointing to her arm. She also carries pride in knowing that two of the puppies she has raised for the program, and (so far) 6 subsequent grandpups, have graduated from the guide dog training program in Sylmar and are now guide dogs. Dogs start the program when they are 8 weeks old spending about 16 months with their puppy raisers and another 6 to 9 months to complete their formal training at the Sylmar facility. Only



Guide Dogs of America Spokesperson, Susan Renwick, (middle) takes a moment to let 4th graders at Camino Grove Elementary pet Eleah, her retired guide dog breeder pup.

about 60% of dogs make it through the program. "They have to have it in their heart to serve," commented Renwick.

In addition to volunteering with Guide Dogs of America, Renwick is now involved with the "Barks for Books" literacy program offered at local libraries, including Sierra Madre, Arcadia, San Marino, and Pasadena Public Libraries. Sponsored by the Pasadena Humane Society, the program motivates young children to read by giving them the chance to read a book to a dog at the library. Renwick chuckled on recounting a recent library reading visit with Eleah. Eleah was

relaxing, stretched out on her back on the library floor, while a little girl sat cuddled next to her, reading her a book. The girl turned the book upside down to make sure that Eleah could see the pictures.

These visions of dogs creating partnerships through their commitment to serve show why Renwick chose the path she did. These canines make a difference, ranging from filling voids of loneliness, to enabling unsighted people to have greater independence, to building acceptance of people with differences, to helping a child learn to read.

MALLOW (Malva parviflora) INVADES SIERRA MADRE -- It's Everywhere!

By Christopher Nyerges

[Nyerges is the author of *Guide to Wild Foods, Self-Sufficient Home, and other books. He is the editor of Wilderness Way magazine. Since 1974, he has led field trips for the identification of wild plants. For more information, contact him at School of Self-reliance, Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041, or ChristopherNyerges.com, or self-reliance.net.]*

Mallow is everywhere now that we've been having good rains. You'd think that the yards and lots of Sierra Madre were invaded by this green shrubby thing with geranium-type leaves. I've even seen it growing in the cracks of Sierra Madre sidewalks and alleys.

Over 30 years ago before I'd ever seen a mallow plant, I had studied pictures in plant manuals and read that mallow is one of the commonest wild plants of vacant lots and fields. I had a clear image of the leaf – roundish in outline, divided into seven to eleven shallow lobes, with a margin of small teeth. It had a long leaf stalk. If the plant grew "everywhere," why hadn't I

noticed it?

A friend of mine called me one day. He and I had both been relatively new botany students, and we shared our new findings with one another. He said that he'd located a field of mallow, and that he was willing to take me there. We bicycled to the east side of Pasadena to a vacant lot. This was after the winter rains, and the lot was entirely covered in green "mounds," rising up to as much as four feet. "That's all mallow," he told me excitedly.

No wonder I wasn't noticing mallow. I was looking for a lone plant, not a mass of green where all the plants are growing thickly together. I got off my bike, and examined a leaf. Yes, each leaf was just as I'd memorized it – roundish, shallow lobes, a margin of small teeth, dark green. I looked for and noted the small red spot on the upper surface of the leaf where it meets the stem. I studied the leaf and realized that no amount of book learning could



ever substitute for direct field experience. Though all the pictures – line drawings and photos – that I'd studied of mallow were accurate, I still did not know mallow until this moment of actually seeing it in its natural state.

I then instinctively tasted a bit of the leaf. It was a bit tough, not strongly flavored one way or the other. You could call it bland. As I chewed, I detected the slight slimy quality that has led to its long-time use in Mexico for coughs and sore throats, where it is called "malva.". The tea has also been used in Mexico as a wash for diaper rash since it is good for skin conditions. (cont. pg. 7)

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FORUM (cont. from pg. 1)

as much to do with "saving the world as eating baloney sandwiches."

Mosca, on the other hand, vowed to preserve the quality of Sierra Madre by participating in the process. He also said the bill was unfunded and hard to implement. "There is no money to implement this tool, he said. "So while it maybe good in theory, that fact is that right now, it's very hard to implement... But I'm at the table making sure our voices our heard."

Moran said everyone should go read the bill. He then said it gave more local control suggesting some of the candidates had the issue backwards something Walsh agreed with. She also sided with Mosca saying, "We need to get over this distraction of talking about SCAG and COG and refusing to be a part of the planning process."

Measure CC - Proposed Parcel Tax

Walsh was blunt about saying she was not familiar with Measure CC, the proposed PUSD \$120 a year parcel tax hoping to raise \$7 million as part of a

\$23 million budget gap. "I have some research to do she said.

Watts said it was ultimately up to the voters, but that, he supported education something Alcorn agreed with although she said the tax could become a burden on the elderly. Crawford said he would support it although he thought it was problematic. He also said the state's education system now ranks down as low as Mississippi.

Both Moran and Mosca had strong feelings that the parcel tax was the right way to go.

Mosca also took the opportunity to list his accomplishments having served on a number of PUSD audit and management committees. "We achieved technology upgrades for the Pasadena Unified School District and the last bond measure was a success," he said. Mosca blamed the need for Measure CC on state budget cuts.

Other questions included, the leaf blower ordinance passed by the council last year which all the candidates agreed with. Tice said that they

simply should be banned and Mosca said the council lost focus of the issue.

Gross Factual Errors

After the two hour forum both Mayor Pro Tem Don Watts and Former Mayor and Councilmember John Buchanan cleared up some candidate answers that were gross factual errors, one of which came from Watts himself.

Self proclaimed blogger and candidate, John Crawford had said, "That fire station up in the canyon I don't think it should have ever been sold. If my understanding is correct, some of that money was used to fund the study that went to the Down Town Specific Plan. That was \$250,000 basically wasted."

Watts later explained, as is common knowledge, that most of the money from selling the fire station in 2007 went to start the city's Paramedic program. The initial funding from the proceeds lasted for two years and the push to pass the User Utility Tax (UUT) was partially to cover the cost

of the Paramedic program once the proceeds from the sale ran out. The UUT was passed by voters in 2008 and Crawford, who was appointed to the UUT Oversight Committee by supporter Councilman Kurt Zimmerman, apparently gave no indication that he knows the history of the UUT based upon that statement.

Crawford made the comment when the candidates were asked what they thought about selling off city assets.

Watts also tried correcting Crawford saying, "City hall was mortgaged to pay for the CEQA study for the Down Town Specific Plan," Which, some said, was also incorrect.

"My understanding" Buchanan said after the meeting, "Is that City hall has never been mortgaged. The DSP study was entirely funded using Redevelopment Agency money - it had to be, it was a redevelopment project." Mosca also made the comment that city hall was never been mortgaged.

Vulcan Expanded Mining Plan Now in Hands Of Azusa City Council for Final Decision

DUARTE, CA. The decision whether to allow Vulcan Materials Company to expand its mining operations to a mountain ridge and 80 pristine acres overlooking hundreds of Duarte homes and several schools is now in the hands of the five members of the Azusa City Council.

The Planning Commission voted 3-1 in favor of approval of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) in the early hours of March 11th, and to approve a Revised Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan amendment for the mine expansion project. The Commission voted 2-2, resulting in a denial recommendation, on a third motion in front of them dealing with the approval of the controversial Development Agreement. Duarte contends that this Agreement requires the City of Azusa to approve many types of future land use applications submitted by Vulcan without meaningful environmental review, and also allows for the possibility of mining past 2038 on the 270 acre Vulcan property that abuts Duarte's border.

Although Azusa received hundreds of oral and written comments on the Vulcan DEIR from members of the public and agencies including the City of Duarte, City of Glendora, Congressman Judy Chu, Assemblymember Anthony Portantino, Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Sierra Club, South Coast Air Quality Management District ("AQMD"), and elected state officials, the vast majority of the comments were not even discussed, much less meaningfully addressed, prior to the Planning Commission votes. The City of Duarte's 60-page response to the DEIR, alone listed 327 flaws in the



Gale Banks, of Gale Banks Engineering, a company with 145 employees in Azusa, addresses the Azusa Planning Commission on the Vulcan DEIR. He told them that over the past 27 years he has had his business in Azusa his health has been compromised by the nano particles he has inhaled from the quarry operation. "It's all about silicosis." Banks stated he has lost 42 percent of his lung capacity. "This stuff has legs. It is so light, not much leaves and it goes for miles. It doesn't blow everyday but in 27 years it has blown my way and damaged my lungs." More than 200 people attended the 7 hour meeting that ended with the planning commission voting 3-1 to approve the DEIR and send it on the City Council for a final decision.

DEIR. Yet, not one of these comments caused Azusa to change one word of Vulcan's DEIR or any of the 54 technical appendices.

"In the 25 years I've been involved in local government I've never seen a planning commission move an item forward without full understanding of responses to all questions and comments posed by the public and

technical experts, especially a project of this magnitude affecting so many people," said Duarte City Manager, Darrell George.

More than 200 people, many of them Duarte residents, attended the 7-hour planning commission meeting. As in previous meetings, many residents voiced their concerns about the potential risks of (cont. pg. 12)

9TH ANNUAL

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NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION

Southern California Edison's Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, Segments 6-9 & 11

About the Project — Southern California Edison is scheduled to begin construction of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) Segments 4-11 in March 2010. The project will include construction of three new substations and upgrades to two existing substations. The work will also include a series of new and upgraded transmission lines equaling 250 miles (spanning an area of approximately 173 miles) and will deliver electricity from wind energy generators in Kern County south through Los Angeles County and east to San Bernardino County. The California Public Utilities Commission approved the project in December 2009. Construction is expected to be complete in 2014. Upon completion, the project will provide renewable wind-generated electricity and help meet California's renewable energy goals.

Preliminary Construction Schedule

(May change depending on weather and other factors)

Segment 6 — 1st quarter 2011

Rebuild an existing 220 kV line to 500 kV between Vincent Substation and the southern border of Angeles National Forest (ANF). Rebuild a second existing 220 kV line through ANF to 500 kV and rebuild 5 miles of another existing line from the Vincent Substation to the northern border of ANF.

Segment 7 — 3rd - 4th quarter 2010

Rebuild an existing 220 kV line to 500 kV from the southern boundary of Angeles National Forest to Mesa Substation.

Segment 8 — 2nd - 3rd quarter 2010

Rebuild an existing 220 kV line to 500 kV from 2 miles east of Mesa Substation to Mira Loma Substation.

Segment 9 — 1st quarter 2010

Upgrades to Mesa and Gould Substations.

Segment 11 — 2013

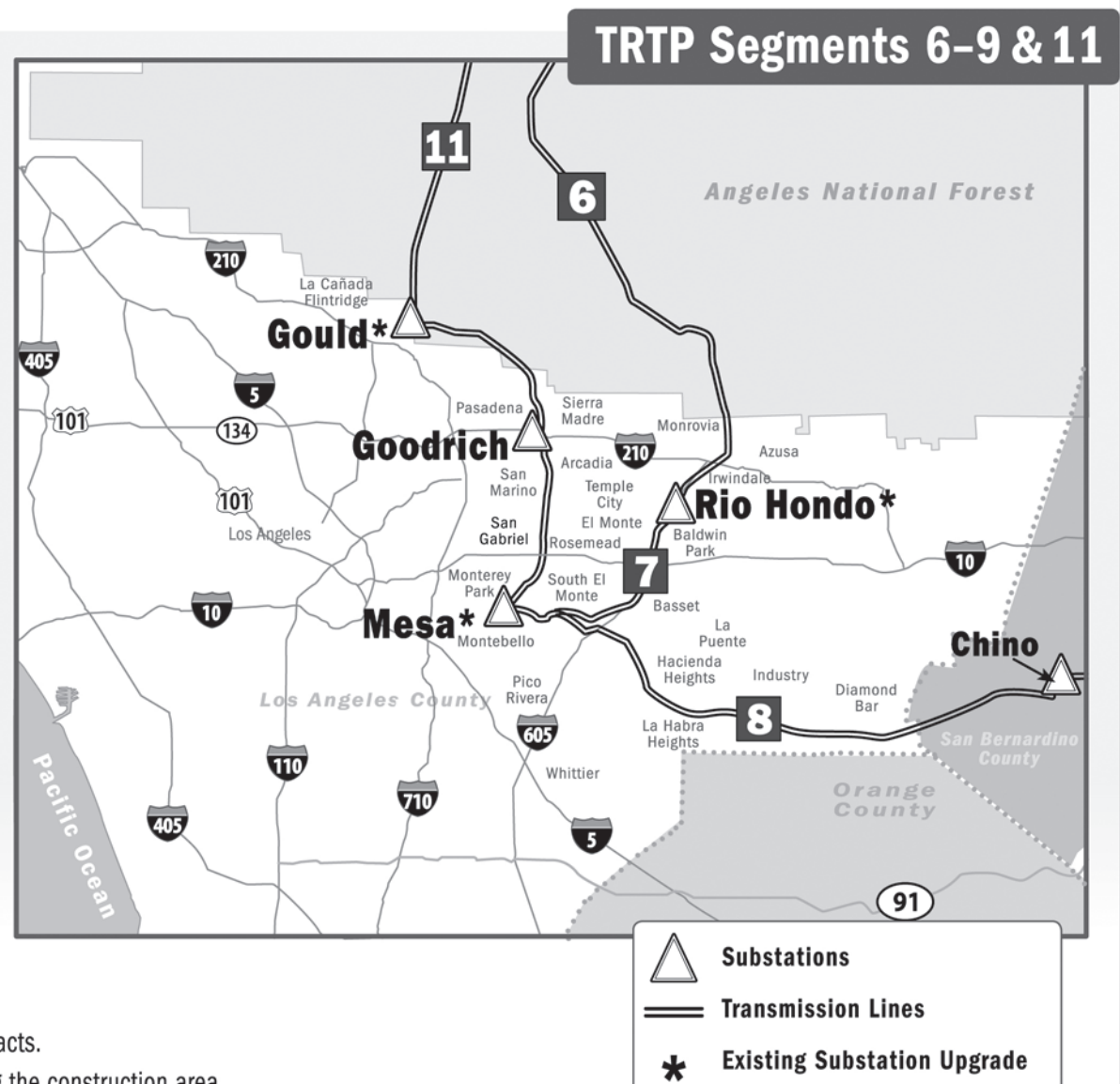
Rebuild an existing 220 kV line to 500 kV between the Vincent and Gould Substations. Also add a new 220 kV circuit on existing structures between Gould and Mesa Substations.

1st — 3rd Quarter 2010 —

Install associated telecommunications infrastructure on various segments.

SCE's Commitment — SCE understands that construction may be disruptive to daily activities of residents and area businesses. SCE will work with local officials, residents and businesses to minimize impacts.

To help decrease dust and/or noise, please close windows and doors facing the construction area.

**Questions?**

www.sce.com/tehachapi

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for after hours and 24-hour access

During standard business hours —

Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bradbury, Duarte, Irwindale, Monrovia:
Elisa Clifford - (626) 303-8429

Altadena:

David Ford - (626) 303-8419

El Monte, Monterey Park, Montebello, Rosemead, San Gabriel,
La Cañada Flintridge, Pasadena, South El Monte:
Marissa Castro-Salvati - (323) 720-5213

La Habra Heights, Pico Rivera, Whittier:
Sylvia Southerland - (562) 903-3106

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Exhibitors Wanted for Earth Day Festival



Exhibitors that provide green services or sell green products are encouraged to display their wares at the eighth annual Greening the Earth Day and Armory Family Arts Festival in Pasadena.

The free event will be on Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Memorial Park, Armory Center for the Arts, and on Raymond Avenue between Walnut and Holly streets.

This year's festival promises more exhibitors and eco-friendly vendors. Businesses and nonprofit organizations have the opportunity to display information or sell items that promote green lifestyles, composting, organic foods, hybrid and electric vehicles, alternative energy and green building design. Last year's event had more than 80 exhibitors and 5,000 visitors.

The festival is also the place to learn more about the city of Pasadena's resources and plans for waste reduction, recycling, water and energy conservation and other Green City initiatives.

A guided bicycle tour of the city's green projects and facilities organized by C.I.C.L.E. will begin at 11 a.m.

Entertainment will include music from local bands, an interactive drum circle and dancers. Children can enjoy arts and crafts, live animals and more.

Sponsors include the city of Pasadena, Armory Center for the Arts, Conscientious Projector and Metro.

For an exhibitor application form or more information call (626) 744-4721 or visit www.cityofpasadena.net/earthdayexhibits.

Pet of the Week



Marvin, an adorable, two year old Chihuahua mix has great brown and cream markings and a cute personality. He can be a bit nervous when you first meet him but he will surely blossom in a loving home. Marvin would be a great companion for someone in an apartment or condo that allows pets.

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 A265728 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at www.pasadenahumane.org



Haderlein Calls Ice Rink Plan 'Worst Council Decision Ever'

By Dean Lee

The city council made recommendation Monday night to direct staff to develop a transition plan to close down the ice skating rink, currently at the Convention Center, and look at the feasibility of moving the rink to a temporary 'tent' location on the east side of the center.

The 7-1 vote passed in light of fierce opposition by city councilmember Steve Haderlein. "In all candor this is the worst decision in my 10 years on the council," he said. "I don't mean to direct that at staff," Haderlein added that he felt they were "put in a box" by the council's decision not to put a facility in his district in East Pasadena.

He preceded the comments

by listing all the reasons he thought the plan was a bad idea including that the current proposal was only temporary. An ice skating complex in East Pasadena would have been permanent he said.

"Temporary, being five to 10 years," he said. "The other was permanent, 30 years, plus 10 years, plus 10 years.

He said keeping the rink at the Convention Center continues a parking problem and is inconsistent with the city's Park Master Plan.

"This ought to resonate with what we hear about, is the city sticking with the plans we adopt?"

He said the East Pasadena site, near Vina Vieja Park, was called out on the Park Master Plan.

He also said the Convention

Center option was a \$2.5 million investment by the city as opposed to \$1 million initial investment in East Pasadena.

Councilmember Steve Madison said he agreed with Haderlein although saying they should move forward with renovating the current ice rink. He also commented that Arcadia resident, fourth place Olympic medalist, Mirai Nagasu, trained at the current ice rink. Problems with the existing rink including an outdated chiller plant and ice floor system, water damage to the wooden floor, potential environmental and accessibility deficiencies and a lack of standard ice rink amenities.

Work is estimated at \$3,758,100. Most of the equipment is almost 10 years over the typical life expectancy staff said.

Council Member Objects to Police Chief Selection Process



By Dean Lee

City Manager Michael Beck said nothing Monday night in response to councilmember Chris Holden's disapproval of his choice to keep anonymous the names of an advisory panel that will evaluate and rank the candidates for the city's next police chief.

"I must say on this issue, keeping the names silent, is not the way to go," Holden said at the end of their regular weekly council meeting.

Holden did say he thought Beck has, so far, done a "wonderful" job in respect to other matters such as balancing the budget.

He added that if that was truly Beck's decision that he supported it, although Holden made a plea to reconsider.

"I think that a community that is as engaged as this community is, with citizen volunteers at all levels of government... everyone knows each other..." he said.

"Confidence has to be established early on in a process and I would just ask, that you think, if there is any room in your mind and heart to maybe reflect on it again.

Holden said he thought withholding the names was a gamble.

"I don't want to see you, vis-à-vis, the rest of us caught in a community debate where that [the advisory panel] should not be the issue," he said. "The focus should be on smooth transition and a process that people feel good about."

He continued, "And in the

end you can make a solid decision and there would be, no matter what the decision, the community would recognize it and support it and this council could as well."

Public Information Officer Ann Erdman said the next step in the process is interviews with about 10 semi-finalist candidates from throughout the nation by the advisory panel. Beck will personally brief each member of the panel with his vision and goals for the police chief position and the department.

She added that Beck will interview the recommended finalists one-on-one and conduct extensive background checks that will include visits to the cities in which they currently serve.

Update: At press time Erdman said Wednesday that Beck is expected to release the names at the conclusion of their business. The names would be posted on the cities website cityofpasadena.net she added.

"The public has a right to know who I chose for this important step in the process and I am making a firm commitment to release the names as soon as their day-long work has been completed," Beck said. "I appreciate the community's patience and understanding."

City to Respond to Google's Fiber for RFI

The city of Pasadena will respond to Google's request for information (RFI) to host the roll-out of Fiber for Communities, an experimental, ultra-high-speed, fiber-to-home broadband network that, according to Google, will offer Internet access at a speed of one gigabit per second – more than 100 times faster than what is available to most Americans.

The application strongly depends on the enthusiasm of the community as well as an identification of community assets that can contribute to the effort.

Google has not stated exactly how many cities it intends to serve with the trial program but has made it clear that any cities that are chosen will have demonstrated broad community support and readiness. Pasadena is among hundreds of cities planning to apply by the March 26 deadline.

"With Pasadena's

scientific, medical and engineering institutions, as well as schools and highly educated households that rely heavily on the Internet, this community is the perfect innovative partner for Google," said City Manager Michael J. Beck. "There could be a great benefit to local commerce and economic development, as well as exciting potential for impacting the quality of life in Pasadena."

Test communities selected by Google will help demonstrate new capabilities enabled by faster and better broadband access.

"With a history as a hotbed of technological innovation from Caltech, JPL and many private technology firms, Google will be well-served by selecting Pasadena as a demonstration site to use ultra-fast broadband," said Dianah Neff, interim chief information officer in the Pasadena Department of Information Technology.

According to the RFI, Google will pay for construction and operation costs of the networks; customers who sign up to subscribe to the service will be charged competitive rates.

Residents, businesses, institutions, schools and others are encouraged to visit www.fiberforpasadena.com, a special website that has been established as part of Pasadena's application. The site includes opportunities for everyone to share and discuss their enthusiastic support for the project via social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, upload creative videos showing their support, nominate Pasadena as a test city, map their locations, and much more.

For more information e-mail Lori Sandoval of the Pasadena Department of Information Technology at lsandoval@cityofpasadena.net or visit the Google site at www.google.com/appserve/fiberrfi.

An Afternoon with Author Alan Drew



Pasadena Public Library will present Sunday Gardens of Water by Alan Drew as the 2010 community read. Join Jan Sanders, Director of Pasadena Public Library in conversation with Author Alan Drew. Prelude

to program featuring Lineage Dance Company with a dance presentation titled "Water".

The author will share his experience writing Gardens of Water, followed by a question and answer session from the audience.

The novel tells the story of two families – one Kurdish, one American and the sacrifice and love that bind them together.

Drew was born and raised in Southern California. He has traveled extensively in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. He has lived on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in eastern Montana, where he worked with emotionally disturbed children. He taught English Literature for three years at a private Turkish high school in Istanbul.

The free event is from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Pasadena Convention Center Ballroom, 300 E. Green St.

PCC, Metro Partner to Offer Students Low-Cost Passes

Pasadena City College and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority have partnered to offer low-cost public transportation passes to 8,800 PCC students. The Institution Pass (I-Pass) allows full-time students enrolled in at least 12 units to ride the Metro buses and rail lines for \$30 this semester. Students can visit Student Business Services (Room B203) to purchase the passes.

"This bus pass program has the amazing potential to positively affect the entire PCC community, but the largest beneficiaries by far, are the students," said Michael Lance chief justice of the supreme council for the PCC Associated Students. "Overall, this program is important to PCC because it symbolizes a step in the right direction as we continue to improve the ability of students to succeed and at the same time target some of the current problems that the school deals with on a daily basis."

To ensure the program's success, PCC will also be providing shuttle service to the Metro Gold Line in Pasadena to encourage students to use transit. If the program proves successful, PCC may invite Foothill Transit and Pasadena ARTS to join the program in the

fall to greatly enhance its students' transit options.

"Pasadena City College is excited about the opportunity to further its longstanding practice of responsibility toward the environment," said Richard van Pelt, interim vice president of Administrative Services at PCC. "By encouraging students to use public transportation, we will help foster a more sustainable future, and change the paradigm of single-person vehicle use among a very large segment of our population. This new program will also significantly reduce the costs students incur in their educational pursuits."

The I-Pass is valid on Metro buses and Metro Rail lines seven days a week. Students can use the transit access passes for all other transportation needs, including work, shopping, or recreation. Because they are saving transportation costs, students may be encouraged to take additional college units and can invest the free travel time transit affords them to study or rest.

For additional information on the Institution Pass program, call (213) 922-2811. For transit trip planning assistance over the phone, call 1-800-COMMUTE or visit metro.net.

Three More Sites in National Register of Historic Places

The city can boast three new listings in the National Register of Historic Places that will pave the way for preserving noteworthy homes.

The National Park Service recently notified the city of Pasadena that the Poppy Peak and Pegfair Estates historic districts and the Gill House were added to its national register.

These properties have regulatory protections through the city's historic preservation ordinance and owners are eligible for benefits that include historic property contracts and use of the state historical building code.

The announcement brings to 31 the number of districts that have historic designations in Pasadena: 14 in the National Register and 17 landmark districts locally designated by the city council.

A hillside district accessed from La Loma Road, Poppy Peak is a grouping of 52 single-family homes built between 1935 and 1968, the majority of which are designed in the Mid-century Modern style. Several significant architects including Richard Neutra; Buff, Straub & Hensman; James Pulliam; Leland Evison; Harwell Hamilton Harris; and Lyman Ennis have designs in the district, which also includes Modern Ranch and California Ranch styles.

Adjacent to Art Center

College of Design's hillside campus, Pegfair Estates is a grouping of 25 custom-designed single-family houses built between 1961 and 1967. All of the houses are designed in the Modern Ranch style and many have Asiatic features. The district also has distinctive landscaping and site features.

The Gill House, designed by architects Buff, Straub & Hensman, is a significant example of mid-century modernism practiced by the Pasadena-based firm. Built in 1964, the house is located at 1385 El Mirador Dr. Conrad Buff III (1926-1988) and Donald Hensman (1924-2002) were USC-trained architects whose firm designed 44 projects in Pasadena from 1954 to 1997 and continues to operate under the direction of partner Dennis Smith. The firm is known for its meticulous attention to detail and holistic approach to design, integrating indoor and outdoor environments. With the listing of this house and the Poppy Peak Historic District, a total of 12 Buff, Straub & Hensman homes in Pasadena now have historic designations.

These properties were nominated as part of a historic resources survey of Cultural Resources of the Recent Past. More information is available in the city's online database of historic resources at www.cityofpasadena.net/chrid or by calling (626) 744-7806.



Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council

CHIPPER PROGRAM 2010

The SMFSC has received grant funds to provide chipping for hillside neighborhoods from Hastings Ranch to Sierra Madre and Arcadia willing to work together to be fire safe. Households in the program area (Hillside residents in the specified zone between Hastings Ranch and Arcadia) have a choice of:

1. Clearing the brush by yourself and the SMFSC will organize collection and chipping by a fully licensed and approved company - FREE OF CHARGE
- OR
2. See the SMFSC list of Approved Tree Services - These are services that have applied to the SMFSC with all appropriate insurances, papers and practices- Organize a full clearing and chipping with an approved service and the SMFSC will reimburse 20% of the presented invoice cost paid for the service

For Full Details and an online form go to www.smfiresafe.com

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, February 28th, to Saturday March 6th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 287 calls for service.

Sunday, February 28th:

8:18 PM – Residential Burglary, 400 block Forest Lane. The resident found the front door open and the interior lights on. Officers found pry marks around the front door latch, but the suspects did not take anything from the home. The crime occurred between 4:30 pm Saturday, 2/27 and 8:18 pm Sunday.

Monday, March 1st:

10:41 AM – Burglary, 700 block Ramona Ave. The resident heard a car pull in front of her house, followed by noises in the attached garage Monday morning about 1:15 am. The victim heard someone walking her bicycle inside the garage and she turned on the lights. The suspects ran to the car and it left the area. The bicycle was left behind and there was no loss. The suspect entered through an unlocked garage door.

12:14 PM – Residential Burglary, 100 block West Grandview Ave. Suspect(s) entered an unlocked back door to enter the home. The suspect(s) stole jewelry and personal items. The crime occurred between 8:00 pm Sunday, 2/28/2010 and 11:00 am Monday, 3/1/2010. The loss was estimated at \$13,100.00.

Thursday, March 4th:

8:45 AM – Theft from Vehicle, 00 block South Lima Street. An unlocked vehicle was ransacked and a pair of sunglasses was stolen. The crime occurred between 5:30 pm Wednesday, 3/3/10 and 7:45 am Thursday, 3/4/10. The loss was estimated at \$150.00.

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, February 28, through Saturday, March 6, the Police Department responded to 799 calls for service of which 136 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, February 28:

1. Around 3:21 p.m., officers followed a stolen vehicle to the Santa Anita Inn parking lot located at 130 West Huntington, and a 25-year-old male Caucasian was arrested for vehicle theft.

2. Units responded to the 100 block of East Haven around 8:26 p.m. in reference to an audible alarm. A 51-year-old female Caucasian suspect forced open a door to enter the home. She was detained outside the location while leaving the scene and admitted to entering the house without the owner's consent. A private person's arrest was made, and she was taken into custody for attempted residential burglary and trespassing.

Monday, March 1:

3. Shortly after 12:30 p.m., a mail theft occurred in the 1000 block of Bungalow. The victim saw a female Hispanic driving an older model brown SUV remove an envelope containing a rent check from her mailbox. When the victim yelled at the suspect, she drove away from the scene. An area search was conducted, but the suspect was not located.

4. A traffic stop was initiated for an equipment violation at 225 Colorado around 7:55 p.m. A 33-year-old male Hispanic driver was contacted, and record checks revealed that he had a suspended/revoked license, 4 outstanding felony warrants, and a misdemeanor warrant. He was arrested at the scene without incident.

Tuesday, March 2:

5. Units responded to CVS, 1401 South Baldwin, around 6:15 p.m. regarding a man detained for taking inappropriate photos of a female customer. The suspect had used a digital camera to take photos under the victim's dress. A private person's arrest was made, and a 28-year-old Asian was taken into custody.

6. JC Penney loss prevention personnel advised that they had detained a woman for theft around 9:12 p.m. A female suspect, pushing a stroller with a two-year-old child, was seen concealing merchandise in the stroller and on her person. A private person's arrest was made, and a 20-year-old Hispanic was taken into custody for commercial burglary, petty theft with prior conviction, and a \$36,000 outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

Wednesday, March 3:

7. Shortly after 3:00 p.m., units were dispatched to the 400 block of West Woodruff in reference to a possible burglary in progress. Three male African-American suspects, between 20 and 30 years of

age, tried to pry open a rear door to gain entry into the house. When a resident confronted them, they fled in a waiting champagne colored Honda Odyssey van. All the suspects appeared to have been dressed in the same type of utility uniform.

8. A carjacking/robbery incident occurred in the 200 block of Lemon around 9:21 p.m. Two victims arrived home after picking up rent money and were confronted by three male suspects. One Hispanic suspect smashed the car window with a crowbar and ordered the victims out of the vehicle, and another Hispanic suspect punched the female victim on top of her head and grabbed her purse. All three suspects then entered the victims' vehicle and left the scene. The stolen vehicle was later recovered in the 1900 block of El Sereno.

Thursday, March 4:

9. Around 1:28 a.m., a traffic stop was conducted at Baldwin and Las Tunas for a moving violation. A 33-year-old male Asian driver was contacted and officers detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his breath and his eyes were red and watery. The driver had an Australian driver's license and a field sobriety test revealed that he was operating the vehicle while under the influence. He was arrested for DUI and unlicensed driver.

10. Officers responded to the 100 block of East Foothill around 10:18 a.m. regarding a man drinking alcohol in the area. A 40-year-old Hispanic was located and a record check indicated that he also had a \$100,000 outstanding warrant. The man was taken into custody without incident. riday, March 5:

11. Between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., an auto burglary occurred in the 200 block of West Huntington. Unknown suspect(s) smashed a car window and stole an in-dash radio, wallet, and jewelry for a reported loss of about \$5,630.

12. A grand theft occurred at the Express store located at Westfield Mall between 4:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. A male Hispanic suspect, 20-30 years of age, distracted an employee while another unknown suspect stole 36 pairs of shorts from a display table for a loss of over \$1,780.

Saturday, March 6:

13. Loss prevention personnel from Macy's advised that they had detained a female juvenile for theft around 2:15 p.m. She concealed over \$320 in merchandise in a tote bag and exited the store without making payment. A private person's arrest was made, and a 17-year-old Caucasian was taken in to custody for commercial burglary.

14. Around 10:45 p.m., officers were sent to the 1400 block of Linda in reference to a suicidal female subject at the location. A despondent bi-polar woman cut her foot with a pair of scissors and was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment and evaluation.

Monrovia Police Blotter

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 515 service events, resulting in 109 investigations. Following are the last week's highlighted issues and events:

Commercial Burglary / False Identification to a Peace Officer – Suspect Arrested

On February 25 at 11:28 a.m., an officer responded to a theft report at a business in the 500 block of West Huntington. Store loss prevention personnel detained a subject for attempting to steal a suitcase filled with merchandise. When taken into custody, the suspect presented false identification to the officer. His true identity was later confirmed and he was booked for the appropriate charges. His criminal history revealed he is a prior deported felon and an ICE hold was obtained.

Residential Burglary

On February 26 at 3:41 p.m., police responded to the report of a residential burglary in the 400 block of West Central. Unknown suspects forced entry and ransacked the residence. Investigation is continuing.

Structure Fire

On February 26 at 9:33 p.m., officers responded to the call of a structure fire and possible gas leak at a residence in the 600 block of Terrado. The house and homes in the immediate area were evacuated. Monrovia Fire Department responded and extinguished a small fire in the garage. The gas was turned off, the structure was saved and there were no injuries. The origin of the fire was the area of the washer, dryer and water heater. The exact cause is not known, but arson was not suspected.

Suspicious Circumstances

On February 27 at 10:52 a.m., a business in the 1600 block of South Mountain reported a vandalism to their backdoor. Store loss prevention personnel had been alerted to a series of burglaries at different stores, where entry was forced from the outside. When they checked their rear entrance on Evergreen, they

discovered a hole had been drilled in the door and patched. They removed the patch material and discovered the wires to the security system had been cut. The officer took a report and will make advisements to other agencies regarding this incident. Officers also went to the larger local retail stores in the area and advised them to be vigilant regarding suspicious activity of this nature.

Driving Under the Influence / Traffic Collision – Suspect Arrested

On February 28 at 4:13 a.m., police received multiple calls reporting a collision in the 100 block of West Olive. When officers arrived, they found a vehicle had collided into a parked vehicle and then struck city street light. Monrovia Fire Department responded and checked the occupants. During the investigation, it was determined the driver was driving under the influence. The driver was arrested.

Mountain Lion Sighting

On March 1 at 7:40 p.m., several residents in the 1100 block of Norumbega reported seeing an adult mountain lion. The animal was seen walking across front yards by residents that were inside their homes. It did not represent an immediate threat. There was no interaction with the animal and no loss of pets reported. Officers responded, but the animal had left the area and efforts to locate it were unsuccessful. A telephonic notification was made to neighbors in the area to advise them of the sighting.

Burglary

On March 3 at 9:58 a.m., an officer was dispatched to a business in the 900 block of West Foothill. The reporting party told him he had closed up the night before at 9:30 p.m. and locked up the location. He returned in the morning and found someone had broken off the lock on an outdoor shed that contains supplies, but it appears nothing was taken. Investigation continuing.

A Weekly Spotlight on Sierra Madre Volunteers

Jim & Eva Poet - A Matched Pair

Saying you're going to meet the Poets sounds like a literature assignment. What it actually means is getting to know two very enthusiastic and dedicated Sierra Madre volunteers who have long been active in the "community", and who want to do their share in keeping that aspect of the town the way it used to be in today's world.

Jim's latest volunteer job is refurbishing the Senior Citizen sign at the east entrance to the Senior Center (Hart Park House). That means sandblasting and painting the exterior of the sign, repainting the letters and cleaning up the wood. You'll see a great difference when it is finished.

Jim helps raise money for the City of Hope through the San Gabriel Valley Hot Rods. Although he worked as parts and service director and VP at Toyota Central in downtown LA from 1970-2000, he now focuses on building hot rods and says he's "a Ford man.."

Jim also compiles information for the Sierra Madre Neighborhood Watch Program, while his grandson does the necessary computer work under Jim's eagle eye.

While Jim is busy with his efforts, Eva's busy with the Sierra Madre Woman's Club. A member of the behind-the-scenes work at the Woman's Club Thrift Shop, she's in charge of "Uncle Bill's House," (built by Bill McKernan) the small structure under the big tree" outside the Woman's Club Thrift Shop. There, Eva sells larger items that don't fit into the main store area – such as sporting goods, computer accessories, luggage and small furniture items. In addition to other SMWC activities, she is looking forward to handing out cut oranges to runners finishing May's Mt. Wilson Trail Race, along with Mama Pete (Marjorie Peterson), Snooky Gregor and Jan O'Day. Eva noted that Don Taylor of Taylor's Market donates the oranges each year.

Eva plays poker on Senior Citizen Club "game day," and both Poets volunteer with Meals-on-Wheels.

The Poets have three gorgeous cars they drive in the Fourth of July Parade, but only one at a time, they laughed. There's a '65 Mustang, a '57 Chevrolet and a '32 Ford. One of the cars is featured on the front of the Fourth of July Committee program. "It took me two years to rebuild from scratch the '32, 3-Window Coupe," Jim said.

Born in Germany, Eva and came to the United States, along with her father, grandmother, sister and brother, sponsored by a great-aunt and St. Rita's church. They lived at 32 West Carter, and Eva attended Elementary School (located where PCC is now) and later on, Woodrow Wilson.



A year ago she returned to Germany for a visit to her hometown of Solzits, and her cousin, Wolfgang Sprecher, an actor there, was host much of the time.

During the '60's and 70's, Eva while raising her two sons, she was very active in the PTA, Cub Scouts and Little League. She ran both ball field diners, and raised money to pay for the Little League team photos. Eva was also an active participant in Eastern Star during those years.

Eva was a career waitress, starting at Bob's Big Boy, then for the family restaurant business, formerly LeRoy's. In fact, she met Jim at LeRoy's, where he often had breakfast. One day he invited her to take a ride on his motorcycle with him. She did, and says, "Those were good days."

Jim Poet's dad (a professional prize fighter) was in the 1921 Olympics, and the family lived in L.A., where L.A. College is now located. There was a ranch there, and that's where we lived. It was a great childhood place to grow up." Living in the area as he did, he also attended Woodrow Wilson and El Sereno Schools, and remembers riding the Red Car around the Valleys.

Jim and Eva were married in 1983 with the blessings of both of their families. Eva has two sons: Glenn Lambdin of Sierra Madre and Mark Lambdin of Oregon. Of Glenn's two sons, Eli, lives in Sierra Madre and William is in the Army. Jim's children are Jimmy, who lives in Tujunga and Cheri, who lives in Paso Robles.

"Between us we have four children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren." One granddaughter is in pro-baseball on a scholarship at the University of Missouri."

Jim and Eva are a matched pair of Sierra Madre volunteers who love Sierra Madre so much that they've bought plots in the Pioneer Cemetery.

And they are staying here forever.

MALLOW (continued from page 4)

Interestingly, because the plant is often growing in the poorest hardpan soil, Southwestern potters sometimes look for mallow as an indicator of where they might find suitable clay.

Mallow leaves are edible raw in salads, and they impart a slightly mucilaginous texture. The leaves are commonly cooked and eaten like spinach; they can also be added to soup. The leaves can be dried and infused into tea, and although bland, are a good source of vitamins and minerals. Overall, the mallow leaf resembles the leaf of the nasturtium, a common garden plant which also grows wild along the Pacific coast. They both have round leaves with long stems. However, nasturtium is light green, with an entirely round leaf, devoid of teeth, with a stalk that is attached on the underside of the leaf. Mallow, by contrast, has a cleft where the leaf is attached, and it's a much darker green color.

According to the USDA, 100 grams (1/2 cup) of the mallow leaf contains 249 mg. calcium, 69 mg. phosphorus, 2,190 I.U. of Vitamin A, and 35 mg. of Vitamin C. An analysis of the same volume of mallow leaf by Duke and Atchley showed 90 mg. calcium, 42 mg. phosphorus, 410 mg. potassium, and 24 mg. Of Vitamin C. This second analysis also revealed 3,315 micrograms of beta carotene.

As I was examining my first mallow plant, it was late enough in the season to see some flowers and fruits. The flowers are arranged in clusters along the branches. There are bracts at the base of each of these rose-colored flowers, and each petal is notched at its apex. The floral parts are five sepals, five petals about 1/8 inch long, numerous

stamens, and one pistil. It's a pretty little flower. Circular flat fruits develop from the flowers. These ¼-inch green fruits split, when ripe, into up to a dozen nutlets, resembling some packaged cheese; thus its common name "cheeseweed."

I picked a few of these fruits and chewed them. They also have a bland flavor, perhaps a bit nutty. The mature fruits can be gathered, dried, and then the seeds separated from the chaff and other debris by winnowing it through a soft breeze. Then wash the seeds, dry them, and grind them for flour. The seeds can also be simmered in water until they swell up. Then they are lightly cooked and eaten like rice.

Mallow is worth knowing because it is so common, and it can provide a minor addition to your meals or your medicine chest.

Perhaps most interesting is its relation to the Marsh Mallow (*Althea officinalis*), the root of which was boiled to yield a slimy, juice. This was whipped into a froth and made into a medicine for sore throats, bronchial troubles, and coughs.

Today, "marshmallows" have no marsh mallow root extract, but are made of eggs, sugar, etc., and sold as candy. Common mallow root (*Malva parviflora*) will not yield as thick and slimy a juice when boiled, but the green fruits (and the roots) can be boiled and the water beaten for an inferior substitute

Originally from Europe, common mallow can now be found widely throughout North America, especially in backyards, gardens, vacant lots, and cultivated fields.

Teen Issues Day at La Salle



La Salle students with John Siciliano after his presentation were, from left, juniors Kelli Matsumoto, Trisha Haleakala, Dennis Maniago and Katherine McFaul.

Pasadena, CA - Teen Issues Day in February was based on the theme: "Go For It". The day was mainly motivational and challenged the students to take positive risks, to not hold back, but take a chance. The day saw motivational speaker Scott Greenberg, and John Siciliano, from the Challenged Athletes Foundation make impressive presentations, and the urban dance group called Breaking Boundries performed in the La Salle gym.

Ed O'Connor, Director of Student Life, expresses his thanks to the Parent Association and the Academic Boosters for helping to financially support Teen Issues Day 2010.

Dreier Announces Annual Service Academy Information Night

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman David Dreier (R-San Dimas, CA) is announcing the details of his annual United States Service Academy Information Night. This year's event will take place on Wednesday, March 24th, 7 p.m. PT at the La Verne Community Center, 3680 D Street, La Verne.

Representatives of the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, and the U.S. Naval Academy will be in attendance to discuss educational and career opportunities available at the Academies as well as the steps involved in the admissions process.

The Academies are consistently ranked among the finest colleges in the United States. Both tuition and room and board are provided at no cost to the students in return for a service commitment upon graduation.

For further information on Service Academy Night, interested students may contact Cheryl Lynn in Congressman Dreier's San Dimas office at (909)575-6226 or (888)906-2626.

Pasadena Christian School has scheduled a Campus Tour

on Thursday, March 25, from 9:00-10:30 a.m. for prospective parents interested in preschool (2-5 years old) through eighth grade. Those who attend will have an opportunity to meet the school administrators and to learn about the curriculum and programs offered. Guests may briefly observe in the classrooms and will be taken on a special tour of the campus. For reservations please call (626) 791-1214. Applications are still being accepted for the Fall of 2010. Entrance Test date is scheduled for Saturday, March 27, 2010.

Paid Summer School Opportunities

PasadenaLEARNs will offer enrichment, leadership development, visual and performing arts, and structured recreation and science classes. The program is free Monday through Thursday for schools with an optional \$80 fee for field trips on Fridays. The summer LEARNs programs will be clustered at various sites around PUSD, rather than at all 23 LEARNs campuses. Summer LEARNs programs sites and details, and applications, will be released in April.

PasadenaLEARNs is funded by After School Education and Safety Program and 21st Century grants, not district funds.

The PUSD Voice, a sponsored article in print editions of this week's Pasadena Star News, erroneously stated that PasadenaLEARNs would be canceled this summer.

PUSD LEARNs, PASADENA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION OFFER SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

PUSD Offers Limited Credit Recovery Program for High School Students

PASADENA, CA -- While the state budget crisis has led to cancellation of this year's Pasadena Unified School District's (PUSD) academic intervention summer school for elementary and middle school students, Pasadena LEARNs and the Pasadena Educational Foundation will offer paid summer enrichment programs to area students this summer.

Because of a \$23 million funding gap, PUSD summer academic intervention or remedial programs for elementary middle, and high school students are cancelled. PUSD will offer a high school credit recovery program this summer for PUSD high school students who need to make up classes in order to graduate. Enrollment will be limited to the most severe cases. PUSD's child development/preschool programs will continue based on funding availability, as will special education programs as mandated by individual educational plans (IEP). PUSD is also working with the City of Pasadena and other organizations to develop a list of summer opportunities for students. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

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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: r.garcia@cityofsierramadre.com.

WANTED: Musicians, Artists, Street Performers, Dancers & More! Come Perform at the Biggest Party in California!

SACRAMENTO, CA (March 10, 2010) – The California State Fair knows there are a lot of talented entertainers in the Golden State. Any individuals, bands, dance troupes, performance artists and other family-orientated entertainers that are interested in performing at the 2010 California State Fair are encouraged to submit an application and promotional packet by Wednesday, March 31.

Each year, the State Fair seeks a wide variety of performers to schedule on its many stages, and is especially interested in acts that can be roving or placed in a variety of locations around the fairgrounds.

Please mail Applications and Promotional Kits to:
California State Fair
Attention: Entertainment
P.O. Box 15649
Sacramento, CA 95852

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: Wednesday, March 31, 2010.

To download an application please visit www.bigfun.org

For more info, contact the State Fair Entertainment Department at entertainment@calexpo.com or call 916-263-3141. Media inquiries should be directed to media@calexpo.com.

The 2010 California State Fair will be held from July 14 to August 1 at Cal Expo in Sacramento, Calif.

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. Vannasdal

Arroyo Pacific Academy

41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca,
(626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke
E-mail address: pcclarke@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. Derick 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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HOWARD Hays As I See It

The subject of healthcare reform was addressed in Greg's column last week, within the context of decrying politicians who lie. By way of illustration, Greg declared that at last month's healthcare summit President Obama, in responding to Rep. Paul Ryan's criticism of proposed reforms, was "lying". Rep. Ryan (R-Wi) is one who advocates replacing programs such as Medicare and Medicaid with a formula of tax credits and "vouchers". Seniors and the poor would then go off on their own into the private marketplace, and the free market would provide quality health care affordable to all. (38 Republicans joined Democrats in opposing Rep. Ryan's recent effort to abolish Medicare.) I won't characterize such advocacy as "lying", but rather as evidence of an unfamiliarity with the real world most of us live in. (There may be other factors involved, such as the \$220,000 Rep. Ryan has received this election cycle from the health, insurance and pharmaceutical industries.)

Greg expressed outrage over the president "lying" by not telling us he's planning to take away something most of us never had to begin with. Promoting the lobbyist-generated fear we might lose "control over our medical decisions" is an example of finding it easier to argue with something that's not in the bill than to address the reality of what is. Few people, and none that I know personally, are in a position to be able to say, "Doc, do whatever you think best and don't bother with insurance - send me the bill and I'll take care of it." Not only do I have no "control" over medical decisions, my doctor doesn't, either. When a procedure is recommended, nothing can go forward until his staff has completed the back-and-forth with the insurance company, and we all know who has final say. Again, I don't see stoking such fears as "lying", but rather as ignoring the world we actually live in.

Maybe we should return to the real world and remind ourselves what's actually in those bills passed by the House and Senate:

1. Insurance companies can't deny coverage for pre-existing conditions or drop you if you get sick.
2. They can't put a cap on payments and stick you with the bill if catastrophic expenses become necessary.
3. Recommended preventive care (mammograms, colonoscopies, etc.) is covered with no deductibles.
4. If you buy coverage on your own, you get the same options available to Members of Congress.
5. If you get laid off or suffer a major drop in income, tax credits will help you keep your coverage.
6. Kids can stay in their parents' plan until the age of 26.
7. Small businesses can get tax credits for up to 50% of the cost of insuring their employees.
8. 85 cents of every premium dollar goes for medical care (80 cents for individual policies).
9. Policy terms and dispute resolution rules are written in plain language.

There's more dealing with coordination of care among providers, cutting costs of prescription drugs under Medicare, an "exchange" for comparison shopping and a "public option" to

provide competition so taxpayer money isn't padding corporate profit. I won't characterize those who warn of "death panels" and "socialized medicine" as lying, but instead suggest that for whatever reason they choose to base their arguments in an industry-financed, lobbyist-created fantasy world. Here's some more reality:

Healthcare insurance premiums have doubled in the last ten years. Without reform, they will double again in the next ten years, and fewer Americans will be covered. According to the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation, passage of healthcare reform could result in a net reduction of \$132 billion in the deficit over the next ten years, with a potential of an additional \$1.3 trillion reduction over the following decade. Without passage, healthcare costs will consume more than a fifth of the nation's wealth each year.

A million Americans go bankrupt each year because of medical expenses, about 60% of all bankruptcies. Three-quarters of those filings are by individuals who had been insured. 45,000 Americans die each year because of a lack of insurance coverage - a figure 2.5 times the number cited in a similar study eight years ago.

The top five health insurers averaged \$1.56 billion in profits for 2008. Overhead and administrative costs took between 18-40% of total revenue (compared with 2-6% administrative costs in Medicare). \$1.4 million of our insurance premiums was spent every day during the first three months of 2009 to buy off congress and prevent reform from going forward - and to create fantasy-world talking points to be parroted by shills in the media and congress.

Perhaps it's easy for some to be able to argue from a fantasy perspective because they don't have to confront the reality faced by others. For myself, all health care costs really mean is that my monthly State of California pension check contains a couple hundred dollars less than it would otherwise because of my share of the premium due Anthem Blue Cross. I looked at the statement the other day and was reminded that California taxpayers' share is about a thousand dollars a month.

The portion of that thousand dollars going to administration and overhead in a private plan is around \$290; in a public plan it would be \$40. That's a difference of \$250 a month. Assuming that half the 400,000 State of California retirees are not yet 65 and eligible for Medicare, that means \$50 million a month, or \$600 million a year, is being spent because we don't have a "public option".

That \$600 million is significantly higher than the \$505 million in proposed tuition hikes that brought thousands of University of California students to the streets. You could take that higher tuition, though, add the costs of books and housing, and \$600 million would pay for the education of 24,000 students.

That's one example of how we're sacrificing real-world needs for the fantasy of free-market healthcare. That's the reality - and I'm not lying.

GREG Welborn CALIFORNIA DREAMING



Well, if you live long enough, as the old saying goes, you're liable to see anything. I didn't think I was actually that old, but the scenes last week of University of California students protesting against tax hikes is something I thought I'd never see. How ironic it is that students at the uber-liberal Berkeley campus would actually turnout to protest tax increases on the middle class. Angry protests involving UC students and faculty aren't anything new, but the most fascinating part is actually the prospect that California's fiscal mess may have finally become so bad that even young liberals will be open to a teaching moment.

What prompted this outcry on 10 of the UC campuses was the announcement layoffs and tuition hikes. Campus denizens wasted no time in sounding the alarm. One article written by a professor claimed that students all understand "the recent increases of student fees by over 41% in one year is the same as a tax hike". That was by no means the lone public voice out of the dorms. unions and faculty clubs by any stretch of the imagination. One UC sophomore told a newspaper that the tuition increases were "a big fat Schwarzenegger tax hike on middle class students and their families". Even California's Lieutenant Governor, John Garamendi, got into the act claiming that these were "the single biggest tax increase" in the last California budget.

While I have a lot of sympathy for UC students and their families, I've been watching California's business community suffer under the ever-increasing load of taxes, fees and assessments for years, and yet the state's budget continued to hemorrhage red ink. Typically left-leaning students and their faculty have given more thought and exerted more energy to why and where more money should be spent than they have to how the money can be raised to fund all the desired programs. This is the crux of the teachable moment. We are at the point where with a wee bit of historical perspective, perhaps even the most steadfast of public spenders will be able to realize that the liberal policies which have dominated this state for years have all but bankrupted it.

California's \$20 billion deficit has been caused by the out of control spending authorized by the even more out of touch state legislature. Consider the fact that if state spending over the last 5 years had simply been limited to increases in population plus increases from inflation, there wouldn't be a budget deficit. In other words, if we had simply maintained the same level and quality of government services we had a mere 5 years ago, we would not be facing an economic disaster. Instead, the legislature has seen fit to increase benefits and payments without any sense that they would ever have to pay for it.

Much of this can be traced back to 1999 when the legislature granted to public employee unions one of the largest increases in pension benefits ever given. The bill reconfigured the pension formula for state employees who retired on or after January 1st, 2000 such that government worker pension costs have risen from \$150 million to \$3 billion in just 10 years. That's a 2,000% increase at a time when state revenues increased by 24%. This is just the tip of the iceberg. The governor's office estimates that over the next decade the annual taxpayer contributions into these pension plans will rise to \$15 billion.

Meanwhile, California has seen the number of businesses and high-earning taxpayers leave the state. In fact, for the first time since the end of WWII, the net population flow has been out of, not into, California. This will only exacerbate the problem. As more and more of those who are capable of paying taxes choose to move out of state, the ability to maintain even current revenue levels, let alone raise them, will be diminished.

California is on an unsustainable path. Regardless of who the next governor is, the state has committed to spending more money than it takes in, doesn't have the mathematical ability to raise taxes enough on its high income earners to make up the deficit, and is pursuing tax and regulatory strategies which are forcing even more of the high income earners to flee the state. In short, the problem is getting worse,

and those protesting students are eventually going to look back on these days as an idyllic dream compared to the truly monstrous fiscal nightmare they and we will find ourselves in.

Herein lies the teachable moment, and I'd like to take a few moments to pass along some fiscal truths. If students, faculty, legislators and voters alike can commit these principles to heart, California will once again have a rosy future and be the envy of the other 49 states.

1. You shouldn't spend more than you make (that's the moral component), but if you absolutely insist on doing it, you just can't do it for long (that's the practical component). Unlike the federal government - a whole other fiscal disaster in its own right - California can't simply print its own money. If the state spends more than it takes in, it is forced to borrow the difference and eventually pay back the debt plus interest. There is always a tipping point at which you can't keep racking up debt. Deficits in some years must be matched by surpluses in other years.

2. When people spend other people's money, they don't care as much about what they're buying or what price they're paying. Legislators, by definition, are spending other people's money. Legislators spend taxpayers' money, and it is a truth of human nature that they will never ever spend as wisely as would the taxpayer. The best way to control this is to simply insist that the budget be balanced every year; that at least minimizes the damage.

3. When costs of something are subsidized, people tend to demand and consume more of it. At the same time that legislators have been unwise in how they spent money on public education (pension and retirement benefits mentioned above), they have kept the true cost of a college degree at these inefficient universities from being fully passed along to those who attend the universities. The difference between a private college's cost and a UC's cost has been increasing over the years because state tuitions weren't keeping up with inflation and the true costs of running the bloated system. As a result, more students chose to attend the cheaper state schools. The more tuition was kept down, the worse the problem became. The solution is to raise tuitions to reflect the true cost of educating the students. This will force greater efficiency and accountability into the system.

4. When you raise taxes too high, you drive away the very people who could pay the tax, and you lower revenues. If you raise a business owner's taxes 1% higher than the rate in a neighboring state, he might not pack up and move. There's a lot of headache in moving family and your business. If taxes go up 2%, 3%, maybe the business owner stays. But at some point, if state taxes are demonstrably higher than those of other states (Arizona, Nevada, Texas, etc), the business owner will move. He will have no choice. If he sells products nationally and has to pass along these taxes in the form of higher prices, he will lose customers to his competitors in other states. California is past that tipping point. We are losing business owners and wealthy residents who can afford to keep a second home somewhere else. It's not that difficult for them to switch their allegiance, and that's what they're doing.

So, there you have it: something new and something valuable. Who'd of thought that students and faculty would find common cause with the bourgeoisie? And perhaps California's fiscal nightmare will force us to dramatically rethink how much we spend, whether we encourage productive residents to stay, and hopefully who we elect to the legislature. California is a dream worth keeping alive.

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.

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Mountain Views News
Mission Statement
The traditions of the community newspaper and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.

OPINION

HAIL Hamilton



INCREDIBLE!
Absolutely incredible! Sitting in the audience watching Monday night's debate was like seeing three reasonable people argue with three loose cannons and a spent shell. I was embarrassed that four out of seven council candidates either didn't know what they were talking about, twisted the truth, or outright lied.

John Crawford easily won last night's "best spin artist award". Reading from carefully prepared talking points he continued his public misrepresentation of SB375, and his defamation of SCAG and CARB as some sort of state sponsored conspiracy to take over local planning. He also continued his four year vendetta against Joe Mosca. When asked about the incessant bickering and lack of respect among certain council members, he went so far as to defend the practice saying, "argument is part of democracy"-apparently unable to distinguish *debate*

Thought's About Monday's "Debate"

from *rudeness*.

Pat Alcorn pretty much repeated the paranoid "slow growth" party line. Actually, she sounded more like a "no growth" candidate. Alcorn also repeated her claim that she is one of a handful of residents who have steadfastly defended Measure V, and saved Sierra Madre from the clutches of greedy developers.

Don Watts seemed befuddled and unprepared, throwing wild but weak punches at fellow incumbent Mosca. He charged that Mosca had mortgaged city hall to pay for the Downtown Specific Plan. A charge Mosca adamantly denied. Watts apparently has been sleeping the last two years when he, Kurt Zimmerman, and MaryAnn McGillivray held a majority on the council. He also neglected to tell the audience that he was one of the original architects involved in One Carter.

Bill Tice, of course, was Bill Tice, the perennial candidate and council watchdog—a well-meaning... Let's just say, "Bill was Bill" and leave it at that. He emphasized he was a devout Christian, and argued that the city council members should pray before each council meeting.

He offered a curious proposal about a city-run orphanage for Haitian orphans, but didn't say how the city should pay for it. He also said, "I know I don't have a chance to be elected, but it's sure fun to run."

Mosca acquitted himself well; answering all questions clearly and concisely, offering reasonable solutions to a variety of city problems, and defending his record on the council. Josh Moran and Nancy Walsh were also impressive; they obviously had done their homework. All three candidates pleaded with the other candidates and the audience for a return of civility on the council and in the community.

Hosted by the League of Women Voters and the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, the event was billed as a "debate". It really was nothing of the kind. It was rather a two hour long question-and-answer session. The audience wrote their questions on 3X5 cards. The questions were sorted by topics, and the whole shindig was moderated by a member from the League.

The candidates took every opportunity—as they should—to reiterate the reasons

they think they should be elected. They all agreed that they support Measure V, whether they voted for it or not; they all said they opposed the city using eminent domain to take private property; and they all said they will support the anti-eminent domain ballot measure, City Ordinance 1304, if passed by voters.

My question--"How should the city pay to repave all the streets that need repair?"--seemed to throw most candidates for a loop. Only Mosca offered a realistic solution—floating a bond. Borrow the money, pay the \$8 million repair bill up front, and spread the cost over the next 20 years. All the other candidates were opposed to a bond, but offered little in the way of a real solution for a problem whose cost could double in five years.

I won't say who I'll be voting for; that's why we have a secret ballot. But I will say this much: *I won't vote for any candidate foolish enough to ask me to follow Alice down a dark hole into Wonderland to scurry about with a Mad Hatter, a March Hare, and a sleeping Dormouse. I love Sierra Madre too much; our city deserves better.*



STUART Tolchin On...LIFE

A strange thing happened to me this morning. I called my mom at about 8:00a.m and, unexpectedly, she answered the phone. I have been calling her regularly at that time for many, many years but lately she doesn't ever seem willing to pick up the phone. I don't think it's her hearing, but instead guess that a kind of depression has set in. She's now near ninety-five and has told me quite specifically that she only wants to hear good news. Well, good news has not surrounded me lately and all I can do is tell her that everything and everyone is fine and that I'll see her next weekend. I think my mother knows that I'm hiding stuff from her, her willingness to remain unaware of what's really going on in my life or her grandchildren's lives offends me, and yet I still live by her rules.

In a way, it is like we are reliving the scenario that existed between my grandmother and my uncle. My uncle, who lived in Iowa, sent her a postcard almost every day proclaiming that everything was fine and that he looked forward to seeing her when vacation time came around. These postcards

continued to arrive daily for almost 2 weeks after my Uncle's death from a heart attack. It seems he wrote the cards at least a month in advance and left them with an acquaintance at the Post Office, who would dutifully mail one each day to my grandmother. I remember being horrified that the cards kept coming even after my uncle died. No one else in the family even thought it was very strange. I realize now that everyone else understood that it was my uncle's duty to write every day, but to say very little. They knew that all my uncle was trying to do was to let his mother know that he was all right and that he was thinking of her. He was being a dutiful son to the end, and part of that duty was to hide his problems and the state of his health from his mother.

That way of being is difficult for me. I always want to know the details; I want to know the truth. Unfortunately, my whole family(and those close to me) know that I have trouble keeping secrets. For that reason, perhaps, no one in my family ever seems to tell me anything. Maybe there are other reasons, but it's accurate to say that often I know more about the lives of waiters and waitresses whom I have only met a couple of times than I know about the significant events

in the life of those close to me. It's possible though that the reason that those near to me hide everything is not just that I'm a blabbermouth but rather for some more universal reason, like FEAR.

In response to my last article discussing my son's problem with his eyesight I received a couple of comments from readers who thought that I was revealing too much personal information and that really, other people were too busy with their own problems to even be interested in reading about mine. Upon hearing of these responses, one sympathetic person sent me a link to an article entitled *Zombie Politics and the Culture of Cruelty*. The article explains in great detail that, as the result of the constant competitive nature and false macho toughness of our culture, we all live under a "regime of privileged utopias, hyper-individualism and ego-centered values wherein human beings slip into a kind of ethical somnolence, indifferent to the plight and suffering of others. People become numb and rigid not only in relation to their neighbors but also in relation to themselves. Fear robs them of the power of spontaneous emotion in mental reaction. Thinking becomes a stupid crime, it endangers life. Human beings live in a state of stupor in a moral

coma." HELP!!!

I hope and pray to my God of agnostics that the above description is misguided and completely wrong. Although the description does possibly explain the behavior of people at certain times, it is my belief that people still maintain the capacity to be interested and curious for positive, even altruistic reasons. Returning, at long last to my phone call with my mother, she actually asked me this morning if I enjoyed my work. In my 42 years of lawyering she has never asked me that question. I could tell that for the moment she was really interested and cared, and I was touched. In fact, at least for me, among the most important things in the world is the ability to care about the lives of other people. Really, I don't even think it necessary to do anything to help. It's enough that one still be able to feel and to care, because without that we are lost. Sure we have to protect ourselves and we have to protect others, and my mom at 95 does not need to know about her grandson's vision problems, but our withholding and our lies have to be based on caring and respect, not just fear of showing weakness. Really, I think we all need one another even if we're a bit afraid.



SUSAN Henderson

VOTER Nullification

Voter: (n) *one who chooses to endorse, decide the disposition of, defeat, or authorize by participating in the electoral process.*
Nullification: (n) *the act of disregarding instructions contrary to the law; the action of impeding or attempting to prevent the operation of an entity despite a finding of fact*

In The United States of A m e r i c a , of which Sierra Madre, California is a part, there is a process in which all citizens may, and has the responsibility to participate in. It is one that allows everyone to voice their opinions and be heard, one that guarantees that whatever decision is reached by the majority will prevail. The act is voting and those principles apply everywhere, that is, except in Sierra Madre.

For the last two years, the city has deviated from the wishes of the voters by ignoring the votes cast by the citizens, by ignoring the wishes of more than half the voting population. The current council majority has effectively nullified the wishes of the electorate. When residents of this city go to the polls and cast their votes, they expect three things to happen:

1. That their votes will be counted and their wishes carried out as a result.
2. That, regardless of who wins, the elected officials will represent the *entire* city and
3. That the elected officials will follow the laws and operating procedures that were in place at the time of the election concerning their behavior.

Since 2008, however, that has not been the case. Somehow, we have gone from

a Council/Manager form of government where the Council (in its' entirety by working *together*) sets policy and the City Manager carries it out, to a '*Strong Mayor*' form of government, where the Mayor directs the city. The problem with the latter, in addition to the fact that citizens did not authorize such behavior, is that our council, each and every member, is supposed to represent the entire city, not just their constituents, and have *equal authority*. (Strong Mayor forms of government also provide for the direct election of the Mayor by the entire city, not just their allies on the council, a big difference.)

For instance, there is the issue of the rotating Mayor. When residents go to the polls their expectation is that each council member will have the opportunity to serve as Mayor. Not under this council. Both Kurt Zimmerman and Mary Ann MacGillivray have taken it upon themselves to usurp that privileged from Councilman Mosca in 2008 and 2009. At the ceremonial (and that is the key word, the *Mayor's Office in Sierra Madre is a ceremonial office*, each councilmember has equal authority - *each has 1 vote* on the council.) They decided to skip over Joe for reasons that one can only speculate are personal, since Councilman Mosca has been a dedicated councilperson since 2006, taking care of the people's business. But, this column is not about Joe Mosca, it's about ignoring

the voters.

We do not have district elections. Our council persons, including the Mayor, are supposed to represent everyone, not just their friends and supporters. So why did Zimmerman and MacGillivray and Watts decide they should skip over Joe, twice - (He was Mayor Pro Tem in 2008) and ignore the wishes of the electorate? Beats me. Let's look at the numbers: Of the five members currently sitting on the city council, here is how they got there:

Mary Ann MacGillivray E l e c t e d with 1,275 Votes in 2008
(MacGillivray served on the council in the 90's)
John Buchanan Re-Elected with 1,488 Votes in 2008 (First elected in 2004)
Don Watts Elected with 1,572 Votes in 2006
Kurt Zimmerman Elected with 1,804 Votes in 2006
Joe Mosca Elected with 1,920 Votes in 2006

In a questionable campaign piece sent out by Mayor Mary Ann MacGillivray in which she asks voters to support Watts, Crawford and Alcorn, she says, "Help me work with a team that works for you". It is good to know at least that MacGillivray recognizes that the council is supposed to be a team. She just doesn't understand, however, that *we pick the*

team. She doesn't.

But my point is this. **VOTING IS SERIOUS BUSINESS.** *We should cast our votes not based on emotions but based upon the candidate's qualifications and their commitment to work for and with the entire community.* We absolutely cannot allow the people we elect to disregard our wishes. We absolutely cannot elect people who feel they have a right to re-write the rules. We cannot elect people who think running for office is a joke, (one candidate, John Crawford, aka Sir Eric Maundry, has said repeatedly that his 'blog' is running). And unfortunately, anyone who 'flips a nickel' to make a difficult decision isn't taking the job seriously either. I like Don Watts but his decision to resort to such a ridiculous method of voting for Mayor was a slap in the face to everyone who voted for him.

So, let's not waste any more precious time by electing representatives that don't understand that they must represent everyone. Serving in elected office is about public service. Understanding who the public is, a critical requirement. This isn't 'us against them'. *This election is about building a team that will work together to represent everyone!*

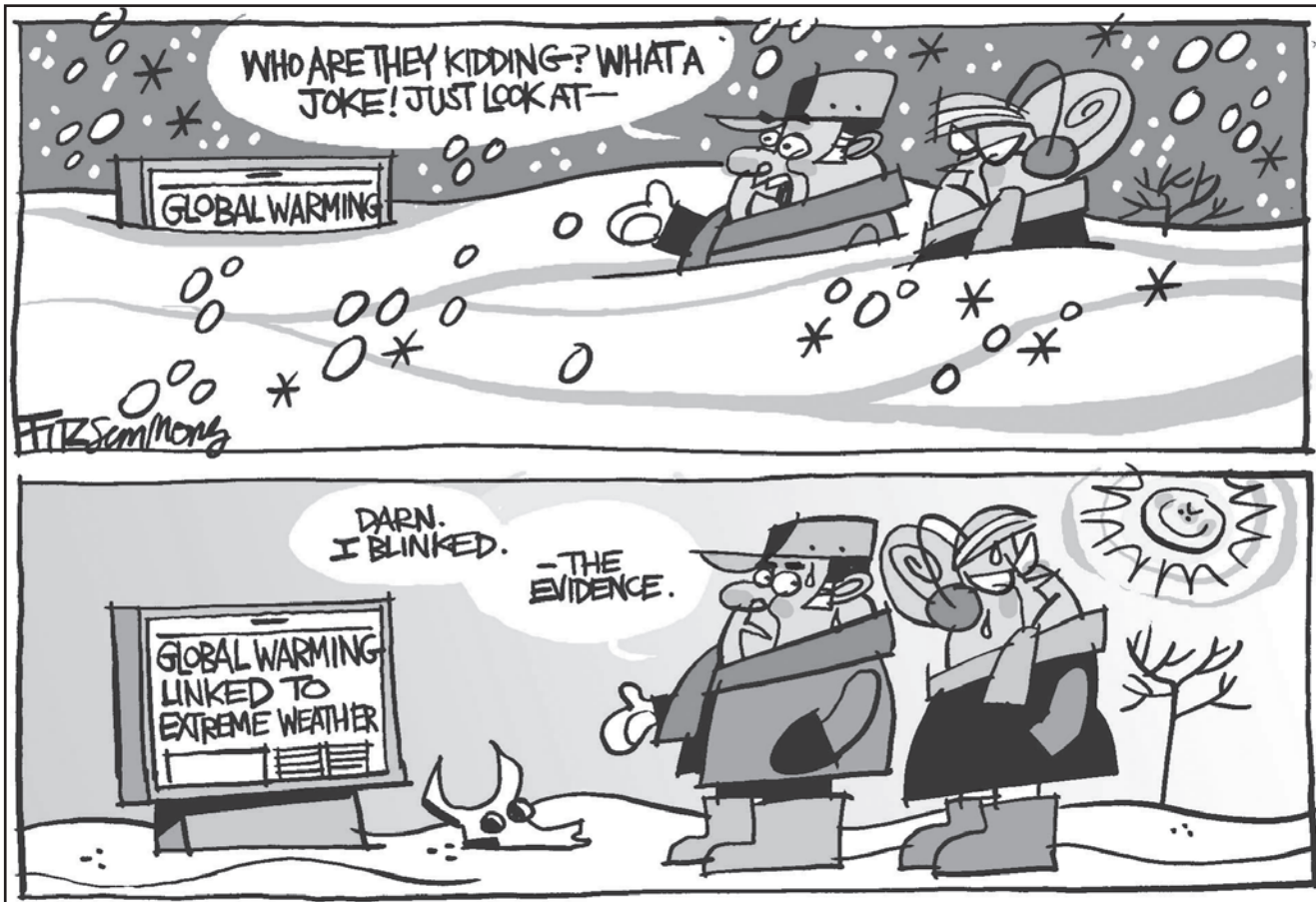
March 29, 2010 is the deadline for registering to vote. If you haven't done so already, please do so. And more importantly, whether voting by mail or going to the polls, for God's sake, vote. Become an informed voter. Don't rely on the revisionist history bandied about by some candidates or the sudden personal transformations others are going through. *Remember, what happens to this city is not someone else's problem. It's yours!*

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*City of Sierra Madre***ORDINANCE NO. 1306
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE, CALIFORNIA
AMENDING TITLE 8 OF THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING CHAPTER 8.17
REQUIRING MAINTENANCE OF VACANT COMMERCIAL PROPERTY.**

WHEREAS, Section VII of Article XI of the California Constitution provides that a city may make and enforce within its limits all local, police, sanitary and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 38771 provides that a legislative bodies of cities may declare what constitutes a nuisance; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 38772 et seq. further provides that a legislative bodies of cities may also provide for the summary abatement of any nuisance at the expense of the persons creating, causing, committing, or maintaining it, and by ordinance may make the expense of abatement of nuisances a lien against the property on which the nuisance is maintained and a personal obligation against the property owner; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sierra Madre has determined that the presence of vacant commercial properties and buildings have detrimental effects upon the health, safety, and welfare of the City's residents, businesses, visitors, and the general public, including but not limited to, creating an attractive public nuisance; contributing to lower property values; creation of hazards resulting from mosquito, vermin, and vector; contributing to increased criminal activities; discouraging potential buyers from purchasing property or conducting business activities adjacent to or within the vicinity of vacant commercial property; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre has an obligation to take action to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of its residents, businesses, and the general public.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Title 8 of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding Chapter 8.17 to read as follows:

"MAINTENANCE OF VACANT COMMERCIAL PROPERTY"

8.17.010. Title. This chapter shall be known as the "Vacant Commercial Property Maintenance Ordinance" and may be so cited.

8.17.020. Purpose and Scope. It is the purpose and intent of the Sierra Madre City Council, through the adoption of this chapter, to establish vacant commercial property maintenance standards as a mechanism to protect commercial areas and adjacent residential neighborhoods from becoming blighted through the lack of adequate maintenance and/or security of vacant properties.

8.17.030. Definitions. For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms shall be defined as set forth in this section:

"Accessible property" shall mean any property that is accessible through a gate, fence, wall, or other barrier that is broken, unlocked, unsecured, or otherwise missing or lacking.

"Accessible structure" shall mean a building or structure (as defined by the Building Code) that is unsecured in any manner that could allow access to the interior of the building or structure by unauthorized persons.

"City" shall mean the City of Sierra Madre.

"Evidence of vacancy" shall mean any condition that on its own, or combined with other conditions present, would lead a reasonable person to believe that the property is vacant. Such conditions shall include, but shall not be limited to, overgrown and/or dead vegetation; accumulation of newspapers, circulars, flyers, and/or mail; past due utility notices and/or disconnected utilities; accumulation of trash, junk, and/or other debris; the absence of window coverings such as curtains, blinds, and/or shutters; the absence of commercial furnishings consistent with the uses permitted within the zone of the real property; statements by neighbors, passersby, delivery agents, government employees that the property is vacant.

"Local" shall mean within fifteen (15) driving miles distance of the subject property.

"Owner" shall mean any person having legal or equitable title or any interest in any real property.

"Owner of record" shall mean the person having title to the property at any given point in time as recorded with the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office.

"Person" shall mean and include any individual, partnership of any kind, corporation, limited liability company, association, joint venture or other organization, however formed, as well as trustees, heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, or any combination of such persons. "Person" also includes any public entity or agency that acts as an owner in the City.

"Responsible party" shall mean any person that has title to or control over real property. "Responsible party" includes, but is not limited to, owners, owners of record, beneficiaries, lien holders, trustees, servicing companies, real estate agents, and property management companies, as well as any person acting on behalf of another responsible party.

"Securing" shall mean and include such measures as may be directed by Community and Economic Development Director (or designee thereof) that assist in rendering real property inaccessible to unauthorized persons, including, but not limited to, the repair of fences, walls, and other barriers, chaining or pad locking of gates, and/or the repair or replacement of doors, windows, and/or other openings.

"Vacant" shall mean not legally occupied or not having a business venture or economic activity operating out of it for a continuous period of more than two (2) months

"Vacant Commercial Property" shall mean any existing property or building which becomes vacant or shows evidence of vacancy for a period of more than two (2) months and is located within the commercial zone.

8.17.040. Property Maintenance Requirements. Vacant Commercial Property shall be maintained in a neat, clean, and healthful condition at all times. The following conditions shall not comport to a neat, clean, and healthful condition and shall be explicitly prohibited:

(a) Buildings or structures with graffiti, tagging, or other markings, or graffiti, tagging, or other markings that have not been completely removed or painted over with a color matching the exterior of the remaining portion of the building or structure;

(b) Accumulations of lumber, junk, trash, debris, construction material, household furniture, appliances, clothing, or discarded, unused, or abandoned personal property on exterior portions of the real property;

(c) Accumulations of newspapers, circulars, flyers, notices, or other printed material that give the appearance that the property is vacant (except those required by federal, state, or local law);

(d) Vegetation which is unmaintained, overgrown, dead, decaying, or otherwise that is not adequately trimmed, pruned, cut, fertilized, watered, or replaced;

(e) Swimming pools, spas, or other bodies of water that are not maintained in such a manner as to be free and clear of pollutants or debris, or that are maintained in such a manner as to be likely to harbor mosquitoes, insects, or vector, including, but not limited to, water that is clouded or green, water containing bacterial growth, algae, insect larvae, insect remains, or animal remains; or swimming pools that are not secured and/or maintained;

(f) Signage advertising or announcing the presence of abandoned commercial uses, commercial uses no longer present on site or commercial uses located off-site;

(g) Accessible property or accessible structures not secured as required by the Sierra Madre Municipal Code.

Nothing contained within this chapter relieves a responsible party from complying with any other obligation set forth in any applicable Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions and/or Homeowners' Association rules and regulations, or with any other provisions of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code or applicable state law.

8.17.050. Security Requirements.

A. Vacant Commercial Properties shall be secured within seventy-two (72) hours of becoming vacant or showing evidence of vacancy in a manner to prevent access by unauthorized persons, including but not limited to the closure, locking, and/or replacement of windows, doors, gates, or other openings of such a size that it may allow a child to access the interior of the real property and/or buildings or structures located thereon (including garage structures or detached accessory structures).

B. Broken windows, doors or other openings shall be secured by replacement with finished materials or re-glazing with undamaged glass, and not by cardboard, plywood, or other temporary means, except by prior written approval of the City Manager (or designee thereof). Moreover, such approval shall be for a period of no more than two (2) weeks and the boarding of any window, door, or other opening pursuant to such approval shall be completed to a minimum of the current United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) securing standards at the time the boarding is completed or required and shall be consistent with the requirements of this chapter.

C. Security measures such as alarm systems, video systems, night security lighting, security guard services and increased frequency of on-site inspections shall be implemented within seventy-two (72) hours of becoming vacant or showing evidence of vacancy in a manner to prevent access by unauthorized persons and deter unlawful activity on site. The use of guard dogs, untended security alarms or other security measures tending to disturb the public peace and quiet enjoyment of property shall be prohibited.

D. Responsible parties for any Vacant Commercial Property shall submit a "letter of agency" or other similarly entitled authorization to the Sierra Madre Police Department every thirty (30) calendar days and post "No Trespassing" signs as required and approved by the City so that the Sierra Madre Police Department is authorized to remove and/or arrest all unauthorized persons from the property.

8.17.060. Local Property Management Required.

A. Responsible parties for any Vacant Commercial Properties shall retain the services of a local property management company that shall be responsible for the security, maintenance, and marketing of the real property. The retention of a local property management company shall not relieve other responsible parties of their obligations, duties, or responsibilities. Responsible parties shall provide in writing the name and telephone number of the local property management company to adjoining neighbors in case of emergency or other issues that arise in connection with the subject property.

B. Responsible parties shall cause the on-site inspection of any Vacant Commercial Property to be inspected on a weekly basis and shall submit a written inspection report to the City Manager (or designee thereof) on or before the tenth day of each calendar month for which the property remains vacant. The written report shall consist of, at a minimum, (1) the address of the real property being inspected, (2) the dates of inspection, (3) a description of any unlawful conditions observed, and (4) the actions taken or proposed to be taken by the responsible party to abate the unlawful conditions.

C. Responsible parties shall cause the abatement of any unlawful condition existing on Vacant Commercial Property within forty-eight (48) hours of observing or of being notified of the unlawful condition. Nothing in this chapter relieves any responsible party of the need to obtain approvals, permits, and/or licenses as otherwise required by the Sierra Madre Municipal Code.

8.17.070. Additional Requirements; Appeal.

(a) In addition to the specific maintenance and security requirements provided in this chapter, the City Manager, the Police Chief, and/or the Fire Chief (or designees thereof) shall have the authority to require responsible parties for Vacant Commercial Property to implement additional maintenance and security measures in order to effectuate the purpose of this chapter, including, but not limited to, the installation of security lighting, increasing the frequency of on-site inspections, employment of an on-site security guard, and/or posting of additional signage at the subject property.

(b) In accordance with the requirements, procedures, and provisions of Sections 8.36.080 and 8.36.090 of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code, any responsible party may request a hearing before the Planning Commission in order to challenge or appeal the imposition of any additional maintenance and/or security requirements pursuant to this section.

8.17.080. Violations and Penalties.

A. The failure to maintain any Vacant Commercial Property in accordance with the standards set forth in this Chapter is found to create a condition tending to reduce the value of private property, to promote blight and deterioration, to invite plundering, to create fire hazards and to be injurious to the health, safety and general welfare. Therefore, the failure to maintain any Vacant Commercial Building in accordance with the standards set forth in this Chapter is declared to constitute a public nuisance which may be abated as such in accordance with the provisions of chapter 1.18 or chapter 8.16.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code to the contrary, any person who causes, permits, or suffers a violation of any provision of this chapter, or who fails to comply with any obligation or requirement of this chapter, is guilty of a misdemeanor violation punishable in accordance with Chapter 1.12 of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code and is also subject to administrative citations in accordance with Chapter 1.18 of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code.

C. This chapter does not exclusively regulate the use, maintenance, and security of real and/or personal property within the City, and the remedies provided in this chapter are in addition to other remedies and penalties authorized by the Sierra Madre Municipal Code, or by the laws of the State of California or of the United States."

Section 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this chapter is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter. The City Council declares that it would have adopted this chapter, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, phrases, or portions be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Ordinance is adopted by the City Council and shall take effect 30 days after approval by the City Council.

This Ordinance and the City Clerk's certification, together with proof of publication, shall be entered in the Book of Ordinances of the City Council.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED, this 9th day of March, 2010

AYES: MacGillivray, Watts, Buchanan, Mosca, Zimmerman NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAINED: None

VULCAN (from pg. 5)

the project including public health impacts posed by increased emissions of crystalline silica dust, the devastating destruction of portions on the San Gabriel mountains from dynamiting millions of tons of rock, and lack of ongoing public access to the Fish Canyon Falls. Many others talked about their fears that the visible destruction of the mountain in clear view of their homes would result in a loss of property values. There were also concerns raised over the damage to the plant life and wildlife habitat.

Vulcan Materials Company, which has a permit from the City of Azusa to mine 190 acres of its 270 acre property, is seeking approval to move its mining operations from 80 partially disturbed acres on the east side of Fish Creek to 80 pristine acres on the west side of Fish Creek immediately above Duarte.

If Azusa approves the plan, Vulcan has pledged to immediately begin reclamation work, using a new microbenching technique on already mined out areas. The much touted microbenching technique has to date, not been utilized by Vulcan at any of its facilities with the exception of a small

demonstration project at Azusa Rock primarily encased in soil, not rock.

If the Azusa City Council rejects the plan, Vulcan has threatened that it will delay reclamation work until 2038. At the request of the City of Duarte, the AQMD in collaboration with Assemblymember Anthony Portantino will conduct a town hall meeting April 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Duarte Community Center to address residents' health concerns about the mining dust and discuss resuming particulate matter and crystalline silica monitoring in the City of Duarte.

The entire 1,000 page DEIR on the Vulcan mine expansion project is available for review on the City of Azusa's official website, www.azusaw.com. The Save Our Canyon website, www.saveourcanyon.org also offers detailed information and graphics about the project.

Videotaped coverage of all the public hearings is available for viewing on Duarte Public Access (DCTV), Charter Cable Channel 3 in Duarte, and on-demand on DCTV on the Web, www.dctvduarte.com.

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Retiring Right

Wealth alone is no guarantee of a secure retirement. It's time to start thinking about what you'll need.

Even if you are doing well, plentiful assets and a good income are probably not enough to get rid of your worries about retirement—at least not according to new studies of high net worth investors. Thousands of affluent boomers and Gen Xers studied by Wharton and State Street Global Advisors expressed fears about outlasting their money. You may be worried about preserving your standard of living in the face of market downturns, inflation and health care costs during a retirement that may last 30 years. In fact, 57% of those surveyed cited rising health care costs as their number-one concern. And if you're in the younger half of those surveyed, a lack of traditional pensions and Social Security and Medicare safety nets is probably also on your mind.

Experts agree that wealth alone is no guarantee of retirement security; saving too little “runs up and down the income scale and wealth scale,” says Olivia S. Mitchell, an insurance and risk-management professor at Wharton. Comfortable living inevitably translates to spending. Though the wealthy save, Mitchell explained in the Wharton study, “people with high earnings also spend a lot” to keep the lifestyle they enjoy going.

Reasons for concern

Your retirement isn't likely to be the same as it would have been 50 years ago. The old adage was that you needed 80% of your current income when you retire—but nearly half of the 1,800 millionaires surveyed by the 2007 Phoenix Wealth Survey said they will need more than 100%. You may even be thinking of working indefinitely, at least part-time, in order to stay engaged and support a comfortable lifestyle. Also, your life expectancy has increased, even from just a generation ago. Determining your retirement goals is a complex process—one that means taking the time to figure out what it is you really want now and down the road.

The plan

Worried as you may be, you may not have begun planning. 59% of high net worth investors have no formal written plan for their retirement goals—but a retirement analysis can help. We can run this analysis to assess your financial situation, your potential annual retirement income, your savings and investments and your tax situation.

Then, it's time to analyze your retirement goals. Once you know what you want, we can determine ways to help you get there, whether that involves altering your investment strategy, changing the amounts you contribute or something else entirely. The retirement analysis will provide you with a full report, including savings recommendations and sources for retirement income.

Talk to your Financial Advisor about how a retirement analysis might benefit you.

Kyle E. Davis is a Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney located in Los Angeles, CA and may be reached at 213.486.7157 or <http://fa.smithbarney.com/laderagroup>.

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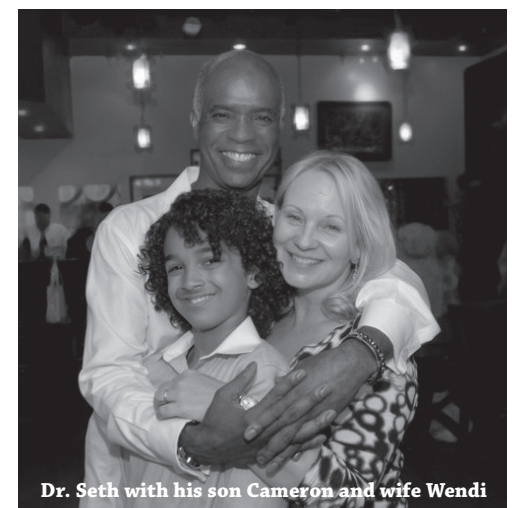


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Dr. Seth with his son Cameron and wife Wendi

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Looking Up

with Bob Eklund

Astronomically Large Lenses Measure Age & Size Of Universe

Using entire galaxies as lenses to look at other galaxies, researchers have a newly precise way to measure the size and age of the Universe and determine how rapidly it is expanding. The measurement confirms that the Universe is 13.75 billion years old. It also confirms the strength of “dark energy,” which is responsible for accelerating the expansion of the universe.

These findings, to be published in The Astrophysical Journal this month, are the work of an international team of researchers using data collected by the Hubble Space Telescope.

The team used the technique of gravitational lensing to measure the distances light traveled from a bright, active galaxy to the Earth along different paths. By understanding the time it took to travel along each path and the effective speeds involved, researchers can infer not just how far away the galaxy lies but also the overall scale of the universe and some details of its expansion.

A gravitational lens is formed when the light from a very distant, bright source is “bent” around a massive object (such as a cluster of galaxies) situated between the source object and the observer. The process, known as gravitational lensing, is one of the predictions of Albert Einstein’s general theory of relativity.

Although Orest Chwolson is credited as being the first to discuss the effect in print (in 1924), the effect is more usually associated with Einstein, who published a more famous article on the subject in 1936. Swiss astronomer Fritz Zwicky suggested in 1937 that the effect predicted by Einstein could allow galaxy clusters to act as gravitational lenses. It was not until 1979 that this effect was confirmed by actual observation.

Often, it is difficult for scientists to distinguish between a very bright light source far away and a dimmer one lying much closer. A gravitational lens circumvents this problem by providing multiple clues as to the distance light travels. That extra information

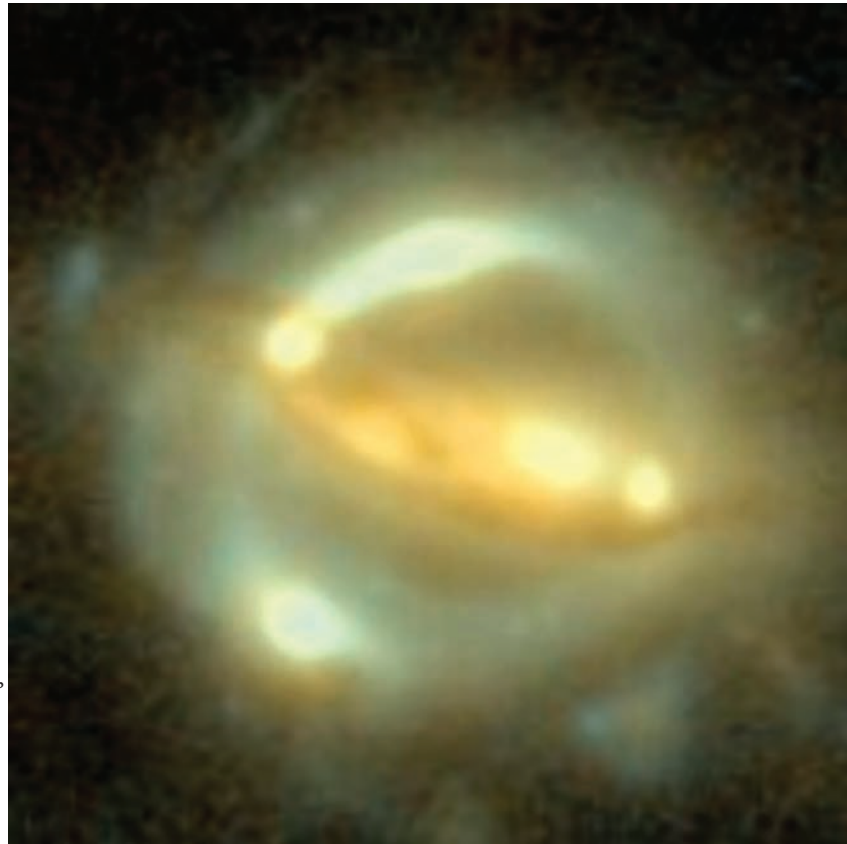
allows them to determine the size of the universe, often expressed by astrophysicists in terms of a quantity called the Hubble constant (named for the pioneering astronomer Edwin Hubble, who accurately measured the speed of the Universe’s expansion while observing with the Mount Wilson Observatory’s 100-inch telescope).

“We’ve known for a long time that lensing is capable of making a physical measurement of Hubble’s constant,” said team member Phil Marshall of Stanford University. However, gravitational lensing had never before been used in such a precise way. It provides a new way to measure the Hubble constant that is just as precise as long-established methods such as observation of supernovae and the cosmic microwave background. “Gravitational lensing has come of age as a competitive tool in the astrophysicist’s toolkit,” Marshall said.

Though researchers do not know when light left its source, they can still compare arrival times. Marshall likens this to four cars taking four different routes to get to the same destination on the opposite side of a large city. Like automobiles facing traffic snarls, light can encounter delays, too. “The traffic density in a big city is like the mass density in a lens galaxy,” Marshall said. “If you take a longer route, it need not lead to a longer delay time. Sometimes the shorter distance is actually slower.”

The gravitational lens equations account for all the variables such as distance and density, and provide a better idea of when light left the background galaxy and how far it traveled.

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



On Line

By PJ Carpenter

Google Hacking: A Book Review

This edition of the On Line Book Review Club features two volumes, the original and an updated edition, titled “Google Hacking for Penetration Testers, Volumes One and Two” by Johnny Long. Johnny Long is an Internet and Networking security expert who basically pioneered the hacking technique known as “Google Hacking,” which has been making quite a splash in the news recently. Google Hacking, quite simply, is the process of using the Google search engine to gain access to unsecured information from various sources. In today’s world, nearly every business enterprise has a public face that it shows the world in the form of its web page or other internet-accessible resources (FTP sites, e-Commerce portals, etc). These entry points can be exploited for unauthorized access if not properly secured and Google Hacking uses just these misconfigurations and default settings to gain access to information that was never intended for public dissemination. The headlines generated by cyber-attacks levied against numerous institutions inside the US serve as proof-of-concept of the devastating potential of this type of hacking exploit.

The original edition of Google Hacking for Penetration Testers was published in 2007 and was actually born of a web site and user forum devoted to Google Hacking. The publication of Google Hacking results in the Google Hacking Database (GHDB). This publication aims to parse the particular techniques of Google Hacking into its component parts and explain how they can be used to grant the skilled practitioner access to information not normally found by less sophisticated searching.

Although these volumes are

written by seasoned computer professionals, most parts of the book are totally accessible by a reader with at least a moderate level of computer knowledge with an emphasis on web searching and search engine technology. Both volumes contain chapter headings such as “Learn Google Searching Basics”, “Using Advanced Operators”, “Understanding Google’s Part in a Information Collection Framework”, “Ten Simple Security Searches” and “See How Bad Guys Troll for Data”. The books contain an awful lot of programming and, if you do decide to tackle either edition and you don’t have a background in programming, be prepared to slog through a lot of cryptic-looking computer code that seems to go on and on. Most of the code describes the inner workings of some program and is only described in fine detail so as to highlight the inner workings of a hacking tool or technique. A thorough reading of either volume will take what can only be described as real study time. These are not the typical “For Dummies” books and they don’t promise to make someone into a super hacker. What they intend is to give someone with sufficient motivation and imagination the tools to make their web searches do what mere mortals’ searches only dream of doing - take advantage of the security lapses of their rivals’ computer systems, i.e YOU!

To protect yourself:

1. Uninstall Google Desktop from your computer.
2. Do not leave your computer on when you are not working on it. You don’t need to leave it on for it to receive your email messages.
3. Log out of your AOL when you’re not online. You’re asking for trouble if you don’t.

Ignore this advice at your own risk.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME: THIS RELIC FROM THE PAST HAS OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS

Let’s return to Standard Time All Year!

By Christopher Nyerges

Adjusting our clocks twice a year for Daylight Savings Time is part of our annual ritual, our relic from the past, where we go back to standard time from daylight savings time. But why do we do this to ourselves? And why must we continue to do so?

Daylight savings time is a manipulation of the basic solar time within each time zone’s standard. It was said to be an idea of Benjamin Franklin, and was begun in the United States during world wars one and two, and eventually became “official” in all but two states. Mexico only recently adopted daylight savings time, a result of the U.S. pressuring our southern neighbor to be in step with the U.S. But many Mexicans asked, “What do we need this for? What is the benefit of this?”

Indeed, daylight savings time is like a quaint tradition of a bygone era that refuses to die. It is a pointless habit with little recognizable merit.

David Letterman once asked the question to his audience during his monologue: “Why do we practice daylight savings time? It’s so the farmers have more light,” he laughed, answering his own question. “But how does that give the plants *more* light?” That’s a Letterman joke for you, but there is a truth hidden under his humor. Most people don’t know why we have daylight savings time, and fewer still experience any tangible benefits from it.

There are two often-cited reasons for the use of daylight savings time. One is so that the children can have more light going to school in the morning. But consider: the children have an hour more of morning light in late October, when the clock is set back (“fall back”) to standard time. That is, it is the very use of daylight savings time which creates a darker morning as the days get shorter and shorter. The “falling back” an hour merely puts us back in sync with the local time zone. It is the use of daylight savings time that created the problem of less light in the morning, and only in that sense can you say that the

“falling back” to regular time gives children that extra hour of light. In other words, this is a problem *caused* by daylight savings time. *This is not a bonafide benefit from daylight savings time.*

Another commonly cited reason for the use of daylight savings time is so there is more usable light in the afternoons and evenings of the summertime, presumably so that farmers can work outside longer, and so that citydwellers (world war II era) can work around the house longer without consuming electricity. Again, these are very hollow reasons.

My grandfather, and all my uncles on my mother’s side, were farmers. I have some knowledge of the schedule of farmers. There is not one that I know who does not arise at the crack of dawn, if not sooner. There is no other way to function as a farmer. You then proceed to work as long as needed, and as long as you are able, daylight savings time or standard time. The manipulation of clocks in no way affected how much work they got done, or not done.

As for the average city worker working around the house and not using as much electricity because of daylight saving time, I simply don’t see this as a real benefit which compels us to manipulate our clocks. For one thing, we are far more addicted to electricity than we were during WWII. There are far more appliances and gadgets that use electricity today, and we’ve convinced ourselves that many of these are “essential” all the time, regardless of how we manipulate the clocks.

I have talked to many people about daylight savings time. Some like it, some do not. Some are annoyed by it, some find the long afternoons of summer very enjoyable. Everyone has arrived late (or early) on the first Sunday (even Monday in some cases) after the changing of the clocks. Daylight savings time thus gives millions of people a quasi-valid excuse for lateness at least once a year.

I have never talked to, heard of, or met a single person who has

declared that the implementation of daylight savings time was somehow critical or important to their lifestyle, livelihood, or business. Not one! Thus, from where does the pressure arise to keep and maintain this “white elephant”?

In my childhood, I remember that the switch from daylight savings time to standard time would always occur on the weekend before Halloween. This always meant that the neighborhood would be dark an hour earlier, meaning we could “hit the streets” earlier, and have at least another hour of raising hell than we would have had the week before. One advantage to keeping standard time year-round is that the annual “festivities” of Halloween would last about an hour less, due to the defacto ending (for children) of Halloween around 9 p.m. This might help to reduce the accidents and criminal activity we’ve now come to expect during Halloween.

We all utilize the never-ending cycling of hours as a gauge to our life’s activities. We get accustomed to certain patterns and rhythms. I have found that my body tends to arise at the same “time,” whether the clock reads standard or daylight savings time. This means I typically arise an hour earlier during daylight savings time. But since none of us live in a vacuum, there is always the necessity to “re-adjust” after each changing of the clocks so that our natural rhythms are then re-aligned with the legal time. It sometimes takes me two or three days for this psychological and physical adjustment. Is this really necessary?

Not only am I a strong proponent of standard time only, I am also a proponent of using local solar time. But local solar time is impractical, and thus its usefulness is only in the realm of backyard sundials, which must then be adjusted to local standard time. Even within our time zone, the sun rises an hour earlier on the eastern side than it does on the western edge. Though Las Vegas and Santa Barbara may be in the same time zone, they do not experience the sun simultaneously. Still, that is tolerable. But to add the utter pointlessness of daylight savings

time on top of that is stupidity. One of the Indian Chiefs said, “Only a white man would think that he can cut a foot off the top of a blanket, and sew it onto the bottom of the blanket, and have a longer blanket.”

Let’s end daylight savings time entirely and adopt a year-round standard time.

Those who wish to start school or go to work earlier can do so! Such voluntary time alterations are fine if those individuals and businesses choose to do so. It may even make the freeways less crowded at rush hours. But keep the standard time year-round. Yes, this is a small thing in the context of a world at war, with hate and suspicion in all political camps, and endless economic hardships all over the world. In that big-picture sense, this is just a little issue. But this is still an issue that should be resolved, and dealt with.

Let’s end daylight savings time as a pointless relic of the past that has out-lived its usefulness. How can we all work together to bring our clocks back into sync with standard time?

There are two ways to take action. Since daylight savings time is a state-by-state decision, we can begin with California. Write to Governor Schwarzenegger and ask him to implement year-round standard time. Take a poll of your friends and acquaintances before you write to the Governor. See if you can find *anyone* who derives tangible benefits from daylight savings time. Secondly, there is always the initiative process where a Proposition can be put on the ballot to be voted on by the people. This is a process that would cost at least a million dollars, and probably more. That may be the path we’ll have to travel to eliminate daylight savings time from our state.

Let me hear from you.

[The author can be reached at STAY (Standard Time All Year), Christopher Nyerges, Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041]

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By Bruce Lamarche

DOES YOUR HOME NEED REPAIRS OR UPGRADES?



Seniors often can unwittingly neglect the maintenance of their homes. While it is not done on purpose, it can happen for a number of reasons. When you've lived in one place for so many years some don't see the gradual deterioration of wood trim, the aging of appliances, the buildup of dust and dirt in a furnace, old carpet or flooring, or the failing of an old roof. Sometimes, these problems are seen but the homeowner feels overwhelmed with solving the problem due to the work needed or the money it takes to do it. Sometimes, it's just easier to live with it. Mostly, it's a lack of money to solve the problem that prevents fixing up the house.

There is a price to pay for this decline in the condition of a home, actually several. The first is the psychological. A feeling of failing with age can occur. As one accepts the aging of the body, one can give up on the home environment as well. This can lead to a form of depression which can directly lead to failing health.

The deferred maintenance can also produce an unhealthy environment. Mold, dust, broken handles or doors, and simple clutter can cause illness or chance of a falling injury. Respiratory problems can occur due to lack of air circulation from bad heating units or the lack of windows that can be easily opened.

Another consequence is the reduction of the value of the home. In a sale or inheritance situation, the senior or his estate will see a lot less

money because of the condition of the real estate. In this market of declined values, this can be a severe reduction of any cash resulting from a sale.

Seniors on limited budgets of Social Security or pension income mostly do not have the money in savings to spend on these repairs. This can call to question the ability of the senior to qualify for a conventional forward mortgage where there are monthly payments to make and the need for sufficient income to qualify for this same loan. Seniors in this position should look carefully at the pros and cons of this type of financing.

The Reverse Mortgage, which has no monthly payments and no qualifying as to income or credit, could potentially be a source of home improvement money. This type of financing can provide necessary "home-fixing" money and a credit line for future needs. As with all major financial decisions, get the facts first and weigh all elements of the transaction to see if it works for you. I like to say, "If you don't know what to do, get more information!"

Got a question? Ask 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 (Glendora) helps seniors make an informed decision about obtaining a reverse mortgage. www.LASeniorMortgage.com

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See the "Senior Spot" column weekly!

Cinco de Mayo Celebration at Westminster Gardens

Saturday, May 1st will be a day of celebration as Westminster Gardens hosts its fourth annual Cinco de Mayo Celebración. Located in Duarte, Westminster Gardens, is a retirement oasis, affiliated with Southern California Presbyterian Homes, providing a 32 acre community of homes and apartments in a beautiful garden with over 800 trees and Spanish tile homes for retired adults.

The Celebración will feature music from Mariachis de Jesus, talented musicians from the Pasadena area; a Mexican buffet luncheon, raffles

and auctions. This is one of several events being held in conjunction with Westminster Gardens' 60th Anniversary: Celebrating 60 years and on to The Next Great Adventure. Proceeds from the Celebracion benefit Westminster Gardens Life Enhancement Program and LAUNCH, a tutoring program for Duarte's youth.

You can attend this year's Celebracion by making a reservation. Costs are \$30 per person. For additional information contact Jessica Mendez at Westminster Gardens (626) 358-2569 or online at JessicaMendez@scphs.com. www.westgardens.org

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Cinco de Mayo
Celebración

Saturday, May 1, 2010
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Packard Hall

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS

Drink This, Not That!

MADISON, Wis.—The human body is composed of about 70 percent water. Take that as a hint.

Water is at the top of the list of things you should be drinking plenty of, says Dr. Kristina Penniston, a clinical nutritionist with the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). Penniston, who works primarily with kidney specialists, says what you choose to drink, and in what quantity, has a huge impact on the health of your kidneys and other parts of your body. Every day, the average American guzzles several quarts of liquid --everything from good old H2O to drinks like coffee, soda, juice and alcohol.

Water is best, but you don't necessarily have to heed the old saw that suggests you drink a full eight glasses a day.

"Our need for fluids varies so much, and there's really no one-size-fits-all amount," says Penniston. "Everything depends on what you're doing—are you sweating during physical activity or are you sitting at a desk being sedentary?"

If you're looking to avoid kidney stones—and given the pain they can cause, you should be—both **lemonade and orange juice** both contain a citrate that helps prevent the buildup of calcium oxylate, the substance that forms kidney stones. That's a good thing. But there's also a drawback: both beverages are laden with sugar and calories.

"We don't drink eight ounces of pure lemon juice, which is what actually provides the protection," says Penniston. "We dilute it with water and sugar, and that changes the equation of how healthy it is fairly significantly."

Cranberry juice has its share of sugar, too, but some recent research suggests it also has something else: a substance that may inhibit the strains of e.coli bacteria that can cause painful urinary-tract infections. "We know that you can show in a test tube that the infectious bacteria are kept in check by cranberry juice," says Dr. Dr. Sarah McAchran, a urologist and assistant professor of urology at UW. "The question is, when you drink the juice, does the protective element excrete into the urine and the urinary tract?"

Grapefruit juice is packed with vitamins and minerals. But if you're on certain types of antidepressants, or using statins to control cholesterol, you need to avoid it, because it interferes with the body's ability to metabolize the drugs. In some cases, the interaction speeds up the body's response to certain drugs, creating a dangerous and life-threatening situation.

Then there's soda, the favorite beverage of many—if not most-- Americans. In fact, the United States is responsible for more than a third of the world's total soda consumption every year. Penniston suggests we should choose another option—or at least cut way back.

"I would really ask people to wake up to the fact that the amounts of high-fructose corn syrup found in most types of sodas are complicated with all sorts of troublesome health issues, from obesity and kidney stones to gout and insulin resistance," she says.

Diet sodas don't lead to obesity, but they aren't necessarily much better. A 2009 Brigham and Women's Hospital study suggested that women who consume more than two diet sodas a day may be doubling their risk of kidney-function decline.

Vegetable juice drinks seem like a no-brainer—after all, aren't those great vitamins in things like tomato juice cocktails wonderful for us? Well, yes. But the huge amounts of sodium that accompany some of them aren't.

"The kidneys actually mirror the heart in several ways," says Dr. Stephen Nakada, head of the division of urology at UW Hospital and Clinics. "And that includes the fact that too much sodium isn't good for either of them. High levels of sodium contribute to kidney stones, and are a risk factor for high blood pressure and heart attacks."

Sports drinks are also loaded with sodium, which makes them an odd choice for those who drink them while sitting in their cubicles rather than after a 10K run. "It's good to remember that these drinks were formulated for elite athletes who need to replace fluids lost to sweat," notes Penniston. "The rest of us probably shouldn't drink them unless we need them." Opting for the low-sugar and low-sodium versions of these drinks is another possibility.

The bigger issue with many of these drinks, says Dr. Nakada, is actually the size of the bottles. In recent years, both soda and sports-drink bottles seem to have been put on some kind of steroid regimen—20 and 24-ounce bottles have edged out 12 and 16-ounce servings. Some companies have also begun to offer smaller-size serving options, but big bottles still dominate the shelves.

"If you're smart, you're staying away from large drinks," says Dr. Nakada. "Whatever drink you're talking about, the bottom line is you should try to avoid excesses, and simplification is best." Dr. Penniston agrees. "The key to all of this is that your beverage intake should be diverse, and it should center on moderation. You don't want to have too much of any type of drink."

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, 635 Science Dr, Madison, WI 53711 United States

Recipe of the Week:

Traditional Irish Stew

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lbs. boneless lamb shoulder, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 4 medium potatoes, sliced 1/2" thick
- 2 medium onions, sliced 1/4" thick
- 2 stalks celery, sliced 1/4 inch thick
- 4 medium carrots, peeled.sliced 1/4 " thick
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. thyme
- 1 cup water
- 2 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees

In a large Dutch oven or covered casserole, layer the ingredients in the following order: lamb cubes, sliced potatoes, sliced onions, sliced celery, sliced carrots, sprinkling each layer with salt, pepper and thyme.

Add the water to the pot, cover, and slowly bring to a boil over medium-low heat. Let simmer for 5 minutes, then transfer the pot to the oven and bake, without lifting the lid or stirring, for 2 to 2-1/2 hours or until the lamb is tender.

Sprinkle with chopped parsley, stir very gently to mix (the potatoes will be very soft) and serve.

Servings: 4

March Birthdays



Ella Guttman,Santos Ruiz, Viky Tchatlian, Mary Cooper, Georgina 'Snooky' Greger, Cheryl Lynn Hipperson, Helen Wallis, Dorothy Webster,

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 Brandlely. 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.



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.

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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.

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TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

The More You Know About WINE.....

Recently, I was the benefactor of an exceptional question from a reader named, Tony. It appears that Rodeo Drive and their wine list may have immigrated to a location near us. I dream of a day when a poor restaurant critic may soothe his many worries upon an exception glass of wine and not be required to carry a bag of gold dust as payment. Like the majority of us, Tony strikes me as a regular consumer of wine. A person that is not cheap but searches for value when he is dining out. To be more explicit, it appears that Tony has some difficulty in partaking of the wine experience when he perceives that he has been taken advantage of, or possibly robbed by a very kind and wholly inoffensive waiter. One who surgically extracts substantial sums of money through the use of a corkscrew.

The tragic hero of our story, Tony, recently went to Gales Restaurant, on S. Fair Oaks, and ordered a glass of House Cabernet. He liked the initial selection and proceeded to order another glass. The bill arrived and Tony was shocked to discover that each glass of wine was (\$14). His night went for a great evening to one of disappointment and incredulity. Tony asked me to investigate the practice of mark ups at restaurants. Tony also did some research and discovered the same bottle for (\$15) at Vons. The waiter told Tony it was (\$52) to purchase the whole bottle and that they pour five glasses per bottle.

I reached out to my many sources in the industry

and this is what I found out. Ian Blackburn, founder of Learnaboutwine.com, said, "That (\$14) is common for a good glass of wine and the math works out to (\$52) for the full bottle at that price." Many chain restaurants use a Libby wine glass that costs them a couple of bucks, upscale restaurants will use a higher quality glass. My next call was to Randy, who owns the Domenico's restaurant on Washington, he tells me that, "His wine purveyors suggest triple the cost of the bottle. Thus if you see a bottle for (\$30) at your favorite restaurant the rule of the thumb is that they paid (\$10) for it." My suggestion to Tony and my readers is it to never let the server blindly pick the wine. Ok, how about corkage fees? Most restaurants charge between (\$4) to (\$15) for this service, yes, they still have to open your bottle and clean the glasses. It is unacceptable to bring in a bottle of wine that is already listed on the restaurant's menu. If it is an owner occupied restaurant, often it is a good gesture to let the owner sample the wine that you have brought in. The erudite wine broker Eddie Ramirez offers this insightful advice, "Always have the wine list when ordering and I do not recommend asking the servers for a wine recommendation unless you do not have any issues with the price." Hope that helps, I learned something as well.

Become a fan of Peter Dills on FaceBook, read about events and restaurants not covered here. Email me your suggestions to the chefknows@yahoo.com.



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Sat 6	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Lisa Finnie & Friends
Sun 7	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero
Tues 9	8:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Quiz Nite Trivia Game
Wed 10	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Azuza Pacific Big Band & Jazz Combos
Thur 11	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Cow Bop with Bruce Forman
Fri 12	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Jack Sheldon Quartet
Sat 13	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Cheyli Barnes & Phillip Cabasso
Sun 14	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero
Tues 16	8:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Quiz Nite Trivia Game
Wed 17	Saint Patty's Day with the Mellow D's and Too Many Guitars	
Thur 18	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Paul Weitz Jazz Trio with Rachel Sorsa Khoury
Fri 19	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Sean & Michelle
	9:00 PM - 11:55 PM	Mercy & The Merketts
Sat 20	CLOSED FOR PRIVATE EVENT	
Sun 21	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero
Tues 23	8:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Quiz Nite Trivia Game
Wed 24	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM	The Song Sirens
Thur 25	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Comedic Jazz Man~ Tony Russell
Fri 26	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	VR Smith
	8:30 PM - 11:30 PM	Flat Top Tom~ swing dancing !
Sat 27	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Illiana Rose ~ Cuban Jazz & Salsa dancing
Sun 28	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero
Tues 30	9:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Judy Wexler Quartet
Wed 31	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Gaea Shell Trio Jazz Jam Session

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

Magnificent Pasadena Estate Atop Kinneloa Ridge



Chris Bertrand

one more bend in the road." That last bend in the road ended up on Crystal Lane in the gated Kinneloa Ridge community.



After settling on a homesite with a breathtaking panoramic view of the LA Basin, their building plans sputtered for a time until they connected with architect Robert Tong. Tong apparently listened closely to what their vision was, and in a few short days tweaked the home design to deliver exactly what the owners envisioned. Mur Sol Construction then built the French style home

for them, and the owners couldn't be happier. They are really hands on people and actually did much of the kitchen design choices on their own, with gracious and comfortable yet elegant results. Cabinet Concepts in Glendora custom built the extraordinary cabinetry. The color palette was their choice as well, recalled from her mother's sage advice that "Gold, red and green never go out of style."

When it came to murals, pillars and other artistic elements, they called on a company named Danart for help. In short order, he painted a spectacular "French-feeling" artwork for a huge niche in the entry, helping to set the French tone for the home. Pillars were faux painted as high gloss marble. The intricately painted inset ceiling above the front door and the Venetian plaster work are also Danart's artisan work. When it came to the living room, the owners were concerned about going "over the top" with the French decoration theme, and decided on a simple, low key fleur de lis design to be painted on the two story fireplace.

Architect Tong made a point of creating a view for nearly every room, sometimes using double stacked windows in the spacious public rooms, which share the view with second floor rooms which overlook the breakfast and family rooms, for instance.

With a western exposure, the sun is very welcome in the winter months, but they sought beautiful shade solutions for summer back yard use. They created stunning outdoor living spaces with tied back curtains, which create a gazebo effect, and bring an intimacy to the otherwise wide open spaces. An outdoor fireplace stands ready to ward off the chill after the sun sets. The landscape garners many French inspired

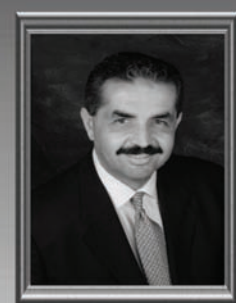
elements, incorporated by a landscaper who brought just the right experience to the table. The owner of Picture Perfect Landscaping actually studied landscape in France. The front door garden is filled with very French lavender, lending a heady fragrance to approaching visitors as the light purple stalks gently sway in the breeze. On the side a wisteria arbor fills the outdoors with its own fragrance beginning in late March. A small fruit orchard has been terraced below the back yard with the family's favorite fruits, taking full advantage of the full summer sun exposure. Modern Lighting in San Gabriel and CV Stone of Duarte provided the lion's share of the light fixtures and stone work throughout the home, with unusual and memorable choices.

The two story floorplan was designed for the resident couple to enjoy as mostly single level living until the children and grandchildren visit. The master suite and home office space are in a private wing off the entry. Upstairs, a play room for the grandchildren, with a French balcony overlooks the family and breakfast room, and includes a mural featuring the family cat sitting fat and happy up in the tree. This French-style estate has benefitted from a beautiful confluence: the owner's vision, the



architect's careful listening and Mur Sol's exquisite craftsmanship.

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



Tips of the Trade: Real Estate Revealed

by Luther Tsinoglou

HARDER THAN IT LOOKS

With markets so rapidly changing, it's easy to imagine how property appraisers might sit in a darkened room, waving their hands over a crystal ball, and producing the mysterious and all-powerful document of a home's value. Let's dispel the notion of magical figures and look more carefully at the process.

When comparing against similar properties, it's not just the final price that counts. Appraisers also factor in any "incentives" offered, such as sellers who pay closing costs or remodeling allowances.

Perhaps the most important factor that lenders review in an appraisal is the closing dates of the "comparables" (other homes by which yours is measured). Unfortunately, with today's stricter lending requirements, most "comps" must have sold within the last 60 or even 45 days to carry weight. Markets change so quickly that any sale price over two months old may

be completely irrelevant. Now a few words about how foreclosures in a neighborhood affect determination of value. Technically, appraisers shouldn't consider them, because they don't fit the Appraisal Institute's definition of "a property reasonably exposed in a competitive market." However, if several area homes have been abandoned, we know the negative effect that can have on a home's "perceived" value.

If you're planning to sell, express your concerns about the appraisal process to your representative, who will offer explanations and suggestions for improving your report's results.

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 (626) 695-8650 or at luther@tsinoglou.com.



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WOLFGANG PUCK CATERING & INTERNATIONAL EVENT DESIGNER BILLY BUTCHKAVITZ JOIN TEAM AT THE 2010 PASADENA SHOWCASE HOUSE OF DESIGN

Event designer Billy Butchkavitz has specialized in creating what Town and Country magazine called "lavish spectacles" since the late 1980s for events ranging from HBO's Emmy and Golden Globes after-parties in Los Angeles to weddings and corporate galas across the nation. But, this year, Butchkavitz will take on a new challenge when he transforms a 3200 sq. ft. tent, with an additional exterior dining space, into a bona fide restaurant for the 2010 Pasadena Showcase House of Design.

"It's one thing to create a look for a one-night event using smoke and mirrors," says Butchkavitz who, like the nearly 30 interior and exterior designers involved with this year's Pasadena Showcase House of Design, generously agreed to volunteer his time and services. "But the restaurant needs to hold up for over a month."

"We can't begin to describe how thrilled we are to have an event designer of Billy's stature involved with Showcase," adds Beverly Marksbury, Benefit Chairman. "This is the first year our restaurant will be as much of a design space as the rooms and gardens on the tour."

Although Butchkavitz's first thought was to design a green house or garden folly for the dining pavilion, his plans changed after he visited this year's Pasadena Showcase House of Design - the historic Cravens Estate in Pasadena, a designated landmark that has served as the headquarters of the San Gabriel Pomona Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross since the mid 1960s.

"There's an upstairs room with hand painted, bird-themed wallpaper that overlooks the restaurant," the designer explains. "So I decided to go with an aviary."

Once Butchkavitz's 'aviary' is complete, Wolfgang Puck Catering will move in and 'take culinary flight' for the duration of the event, which will take place from Sunday, April 18 through Sunday, May 16. To date, the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts has raised over \$17 million for the musical arts in Southern California.

"We couldn't ask for a better teammate than Wolfgang Puck Catering. They've done a wonderful job with our restaurant for the past three years," says restaurant chairman Pam Ragus. "I truly don't know how they manage to create such fantastic food, day after day, under what are certainly less than idyllic circumstances for a chef - a driveway and parking lot. But they never disappoint us."

In fact, it was Barbara Brass, Director of Events at Wolfgang Puck Worldwide, Inc., who introduced Billy Butchkavitz to the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts (PSHA) and its mission to bring what conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein called "the joy of music" to each and every member of the community, but especially to children.

For more information about the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts, visit www.pasadenashowcase.org or call 626.578.8500.



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Sunday, March 14, 2010

Vine Viewing 9am—4pm

Downtown Festival 9am—5pm

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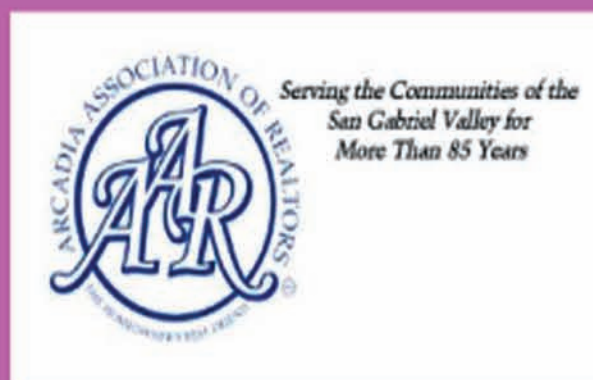
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SATURDAY MARCH 13, 2010

SECTION B

Wistaria Hysteria Descends Again on Sierra Madre



2009 Visitors Viewing The Historic Vine
Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

Sierra Madre's mid-March Wistaria Festival began decades ago, centered around a true freak of nature. Purple-clad Wistaria enthusiasts now yearly flood the city's downtown streets amid the vendor tents and tour buses, though the major exhibition requires a bus ride to the private site open to the public just one day a year.

Bill Coburn of the local Chamber of Commerce will, of course, sport his purple shirt with matching purple tie. Purple shirts, scarves and hats are always in ample supply to add to the "Wistaria Hysteria." There are even three purple houses on North Lima in the west end of town.

This vine holds a place in the Guinness Book as the world's largest flowering plant. Taking up over an acre, weighing in the neighborhood of 250 tons and with around a million blossoms in a good year, it's one of the seven horticultural wonders of the world. Wikipedia, as well, calls out Sierra Madre's vine as the largest known plant.

The Sierra Madre vine is in impressive company, including the redwood forest in Sequoia National Park, Brazil's tropical jungle in the Amazon Valley, Mexico's Xochimilco floating gardens, India's gardens of the Taj Mahal, Japan's Yokohama rock gardens, and the gardens

of England's Buckingham Palace.

Purchased for the sum of just seventy five cents from a Monrovia nursery, this Chinese lavender variety of Wistaria was planted back in 1894 by Alice and William Brugman. The lore says Alice, a horticulture lover, bought the plant as a birthday gift to herself.

Wistaria flowers actually bloom from pendulous racemes, or short stalks along the main stem, from which new flowers grow before the leaves show themselves. The flowers develop near the base of last year's growth, so early spring pruning can actually improve the display. The Wistaria vine climbs by affixing its rapidly growing stems around any available

support, whether a planned arbor, a wall or the nearby telephone pole, climbing up to fifty feet.

If you simply must have your own Wistaria plant, nearby Persson's Nursery, on Sierra Madre Blvd. in Pasadena, stocks Wistaria in both tree and vine form. The variety here at "The Vine" is said to be Wistaria Sinesis or Chinese Wistaria. The nursery regularly carries the blue, plus white and pink varieties. Armstrong's Nursery and Home Depot, both in Monrovia also stock a variety of Wistaria.

But... buyers beware! Wistaria ownership comes with responsibility. In favorable conditions, our Wistaria vine has been measured to grow an inch an

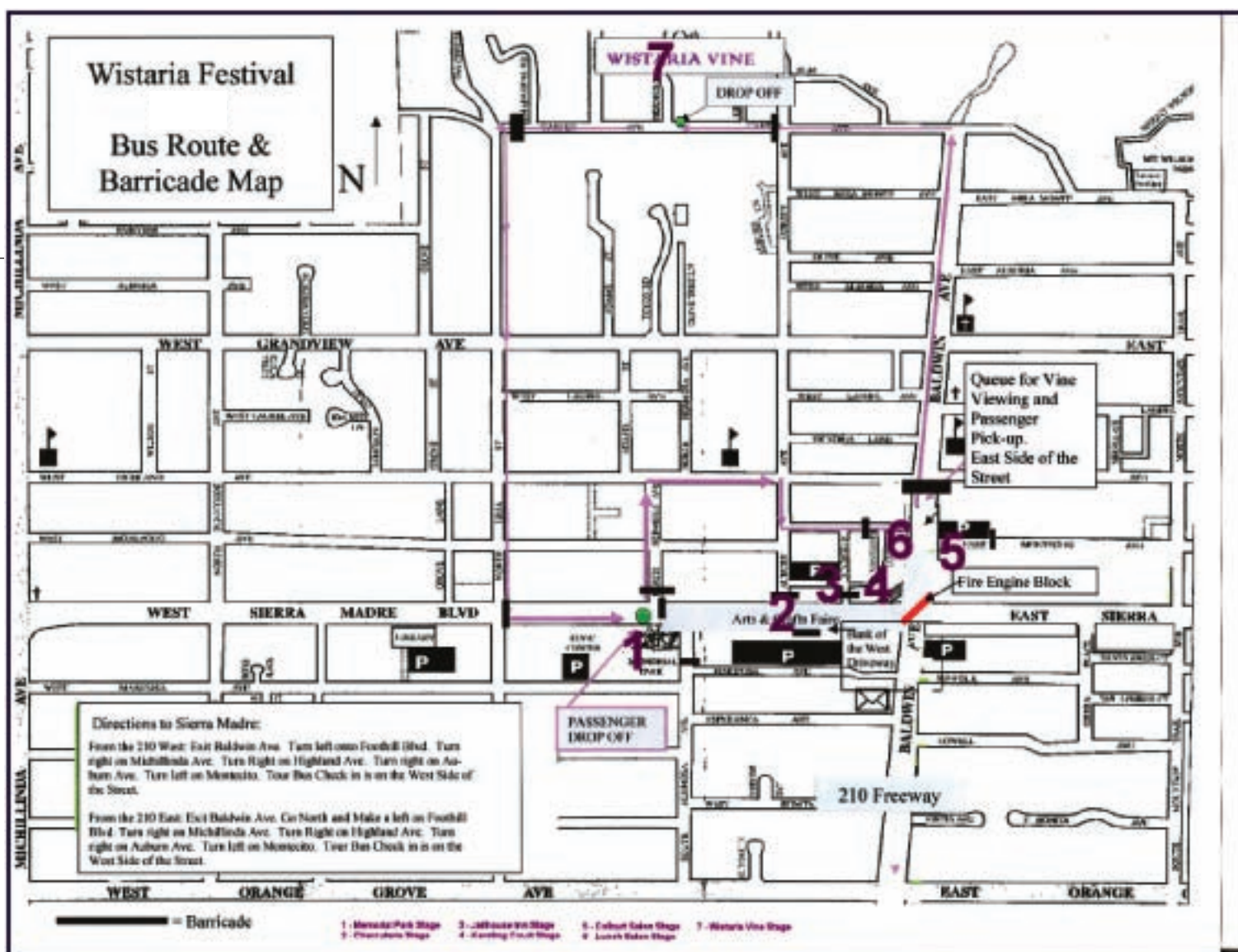
hour, possibly fed by an underground spring sought out by the hundred plus year old roots. One Wistaria owner often bemoaned his weekly chore of trimming the wistaria framing his back door. At peak growing season, 1 inch x 24 hours in a day is two feet of growth per day. Two feet of growth in a seven day week adds up to fourteen feet per tendril! No wonder it's a weekly chore during the active growing season!

Bill Coburn, Executive Director
Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce

If left unattended, who knows? You might fall victim to the "Vine that Crushed the House" calamity which overtook the

for a spectacular purple display.

Other Sierra Madre Wistaria displays nearby are worth note. The best one is right in the center of town at Sierra Madre City Hall on the main boulevard, bringing



original home on this site. After the original house went down, a new home was built about 200 feet away. These days the vine inhabits two properties, and the generous owners permit the public to amble beneath and around the vine once a year.

Since this is a living plant, the vagaries of weather and temperature have been known to affect the display, and festival planners always worry that too much or too little rain or sun will dim the display. This year, the correct order of copious rain followed by a series of sunny, warm days seems to be in order

its own horde of hovering photographers. It's a great place to enjoy the magical scene the large gazebo and arbor creates when the ground beneath it is covered in Wistaria "snow."

Elsewhere, on Alegria between Baldwin and Auburn at the west end of St. Rita's upper school campus climbs another vigorous display. Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center on Sunnyside (private access only except for special events) has a beautiful curving arbor and walkway beneath their Wistaria arbor planted about seven years ago. And lastly, the rather unlikely site at the front entrance to Robin's Barbecue on Rosemead in the Hastings Ranch area of Pasadena sports massive blooms each spring.

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History of Sierra Madre’s 116-Year Old Wistaria Vine



By Phyllis Chapman

In 1894, William and Alice Brugman purchased a home on what was then called Piedmont, which is now called W. Carter Ave. The house had been built one year before by builder Amos Trussell for his daughter Winona and son-in-law Edward B. Jones when they married. It was the first wedding celebrated in early Sierra Madre. The Trussells and the Jones had a change of plans, sold to the Brugmans and moved away. To enhance her new home, Alice Brugman and her neighbor Mrs. W. B. Crisp, drove by horse and buggy to the R. H. Wilson Pioneer Nursery in Monrovia and for \$.75 purchased a gallon can of wistaria. It was the Chinese Wistaria variety (Wisteria sinensis). She planted it in a corner of her front porch remarking to her neighbor: “They say Wistaria grows fast.” And grow it did.

Mr. Brugman, a mining engineer, was in Mexico when the vine was planted. He died in 1899 and Mrs. Brugman sold the home in 1906. The property changed hands until it was purchased in 1913 by Henry T. and Estelle Fennel. Mr. Fennel, who was a bit of a horticulturist, loved the vine, and gave it devoted care, even building support trellises.

Although the Wistaria is a vigorous grower, the added support of the trellises may have contributed to this vine’s phenomenal growth. The arbors prevented the end tendrils from hanging down and causing the tender terminal buds to die from the added weight.

Wistaria requires good drainage, certainly provided by this hilly, terraced location. There may also be an underground spring providing water to the tap root.

The vine eventually destroyed the original home, growing into the walls and fireplace and causing the roof to collapse. Mr. Fennel built a new home 200 feet to the north (the present upper home) and trained the vine to grow up to, but not covering the new residence. A portion of the foundation of that original home was saved to continue to provide support for the vine as its branches extended such a distance.

When the vine was in bloom, the Fennels would invite friends to come and enjoy the blossoming plant. Visitors also came from Pasadena’s main hotels: The Green, The Huntington, and The Raymond. In 1918, the Fennels opened the vine to the Sierra Madre Chapter of the American Red Cross, which sponsored a very successful fundraiser to help the war effort. 12,000 people attended the event. This was the beginning of many Wistaria festivals that took place year after year. Sierra Madre became known as the Wistaria City. Many local organizations, including the Board of Trade (now the Chamber of Commerce), the Woman’s Club, the Masons and Eastern Star, the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Dept., etc. were involved.

Many homemade items, fancy work, ceramics, artwork, gift books, and Wistaria fragrancend perfume, hand lotion and bath salts were sold at booths under the vine. Luncheons and teas were served, often with young Japanese women wearing their kimonos. The hard work and money earned at the vine by the Woman’s Club paid off the mortgage of their first clubhouse. One year the Fire Dept. parked 30,000 cars on the parking lot that existed in Floral Canyon. (This is now Sierra Meadow Dr.). Easter sunrise services were among vine activities. People came from all over the world and extra street cars were added to handle the crowds. Among the famous were Fritz Kreisler, Janet Leigh, Mary Pickford, and Norman Rockwell. These two helped select the festival’s Wistaria Queen. Packard Automobile Co. used the vine as a backdrop to advertise its automobile.

On December 5, 1936, Carrie Ida Lawless purchases the vine property from Mrs. Fennel, who was now a widow, for \$17,000.00. December 5th was Mrs. Lawless’ birthday, and according to one account, she was making a present to herself of the world’s largest bouquet. Also a widow, her husband William J (Bill) Lawless was mayor of Sierra Madre during 1928-29. She, herself, was a successful businesswoman having founded the Weaver Jackson Beauty Co. in Los Angeles and was active in the community, serving as president of the Woman’s Club and the Garden Club.

Mrs. Lawless spent a small fortune (around \$100,000) enhancing the grounds of her new property and caring for the vine. When the festivals were held they often lasted for the weeks the vine was in bloom, not just for one day. Mrs. Lawless, a patron of the arts, also sponsored vine activities all year long.

She hosted art exhibits, musicales, and poetry readings. Nearby residents objected to the constant activity and took their complaints to the City Council. Nothing was done as Mrs. Lawless presented the argument that the vine existed before these neighbors purchased their properties.

In recognition for her contributions to the community, the Garden Club planted another Wistaria in the terraced garden on the west side of what is today the Solt’s garden. It blooms a bit later than the original vine and the plaque commemorating the occasion is gone.

When Mrs. Lawless died in 1942, she provided for the vine by leaving a legacy to her nephew and heir, Bruce McGill, to continue care of the property with a committee headed by the Garden Club President. In 1944, the property was purchased by Richard and Marian Thayer. Marian is the daughter of M. Penn Phillips, a well-known developer of desert property. In 1944 the vine was overgrown and in poor condition. Richard Thayer planned to chop it up and get rid of it. A protest was raised and an association was formed to protect the vine, with money provided to pay property taxes and provide year-round care for the vine.

In 1961, after Richard Thayer died, the lot was split. Marian married builder Ronald Cook who developed the west side of the property with homes and built the present Solt home for he and Marian in 1962. The upper home was sold to Joseph and Marie Feeney who raised eight children there. In 1972, Ron and Marian sold the lower home to Bob and Nell Solt. In the late 1990s, Joe Feeney died and Maria sold the property. It was purchased in 2003 by the present owners, Dan and Dana Dorrance.

By the 1970’s Vine Festival activity had about ended. It started up again in the late 70’s when sponsored for one day each year by the Chamber of Commerce. The Sierra Madre Beautification Committee was the yearly sponsor in the 1980’s. Approximately 500-600 people attended the festival each year. In the spring of 1989, Huell Howser came to film the vine for his program Videolog, which aired on KCET. The next year, approximately 6,000 people came to view the vine. The festival organizers

were unprepared for such a turnout; lines stretched for two blocks. Howser returned in 1992 to film again for his California Gold program. Sierra Madre and the Chamber of Commerce quickly organized and combined the annual Vine viewing with a downtown street fair. A shuttle bus is provided, and people procure tickets to see the vine at a pre-scheduled time.

The Guinness Book of World Records has named the Vine the World’s largest flowering plant. It is estimated that at the height of bloom it has 1.5 million blossoms with 40 blossoms per sq. ft., weighs 250 tons and has branches that extend 500 feet. Wistaria is a member of the pea family though its seeds resemble a flat bean. Seed pods burst open in the summer. The plant is deciduous, losing its leaves in the winter. Wistaria seeds were brought from China by Marco Polo in the 13th century.

Today, the vine covers approximately one acre. Over the years, it has shown distress and seemed to be dying. Experts have been brought in from Cal Tech, Occidental, and Cal Poly Pomona. Correct pruning, treatments with hormones, and vitamin B have helped the vine to recover and to flourish. To help maintain the Vine’s health, records of vine growth and care are now kept on a computer log. The Vine seems to produce its greatest flowering after a cold winter followed by a sudden hot spell.

What is the correct spelling for wisteria—wisteria or wistaria? In the Sunset Western Garden Book it is spelled wisteria. Sierra Madre has always spelled it wistaria. According to L. A. County Arboretum and Botanic Garden senior biologist Jim Bauml and Librarian Joan De Fato, the plant was named to honor Caspar Wistar (1761-1818), an American physician and teacher, who taught at the University of Pennsylvania. Among his accomplishments, he wrote the first text-book on anatomy. When the name of the genus Wisteria was put into the books, it was incorrectly spelled, says De Fato. So, one could say that all along, Sierra Madre has correctly spelled Wistaria!

Sierra Madre, California.
The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Postal Service announce a special postmark cancellation to celebrate the Sierra Madre Wistaria Festival.

This special postmark will be available at:

Event: The Sierra Madre Wistaria Festival,
Date: Sunday, March 14, 2010
Hours: Open 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.
Location: The Wistaria Festival Postal Station at Kersting Court in Sierra Madre
Located at Sierra Madre Boulevard and Baldwin Avenue.



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This postal cancellation has been announced and printed in the U. S. Postal Bulletin which is distributed world wide. To accommodate collectors from out of the area, the Sierra Madre Post Office will cancel postcards and letters upon request with the Wistaria Cancellation for 30 days after the event. To postmark a letter after the event go to Sierra Madre Post Office and request the Wistaria Postmark on your mail.

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The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce
Wistaria Festival 2010

2010 Wistaria Festival Entertainment Lineup

Vine Stage

9am – 11am
Ron Longo, Harp

11am – 1pm
Michael Zubia, Classical Guitar

1pm – 3pm
Ron Longo, Harp

3pm 5pm
Michael Zubia, Classical Guitar

Memorial Park

12noon – 1:30pm
Horses on Astroturf

1:30 – 3pm
Snotty Scotty and the Hankies

3pm – 5pm
Dirty Dave & The Dynamites

Charcuterie

12noon – 2:15pm
Ocho X

Charcuterie (Cont.)

2:30 – 5pm
Thelonious Dub

Jailhouse Inn Stage

12noon – 1:15pm
Joe Ely

1:30pm – 2:45pm
Vin Fiz Flyer

3pm – 5pm
? and The Wistarians

Kersting Court Stage

11am – 1pm
LIVE RADIO PROMO – Brian Casey
and KOLA 99FM

1pm – 2:45pm
Crown City Blues Band

3pm – 5pm
Two Frets Down

Stages/times/acts subject to change without notice.
Order posted above not necessarily representative of order of performance.

Entertainment Chair: Tim Tutwiler



The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce
Wistaria Festival 2010

Sierra Madre Celebrates Annual Wistaria Festival

Thousands come to visit the annual festival celebrating this breathtaking vine!

The Guinness Book of World Records has named the Vine as the World’s largest flowering plant. It is estimated that at the height of bloom it has 1.5 million blossoms with 40 blossoms per square foot, a weight of 250 tons and has branches that extend 500 feet. In 1918, 12,000 people attended the first public Wistaria Festival. In the 1930s, a 6-week Wistaria event took place, with more than 100,000 people making the trip to see the vine. Extra "Red Cars" were put on the Pacific Electric route to Sierra Madre to handle the crowds. In 2009, the crowd was estimated at 13,000 people, and in 2007, one young resident chose it as the very special location at which he and his girlfriend became engaged to be married.

Extraordinary Art, Fine Crafts and Vendors

Each year, people from all over the world visit Sierra Madre to enjoy the work of nearly 150 juried artisans and craftsmen, dynamite music, fabulous food and drink, and a variety of fun for the whole family. Sierra Madre’s Wistaria Festival has a well-earned reputation as a world-class event. Stroll through Kersting Court, up Baldwin Ave. and across Sierra Madre Blvd, as the charming village downtown area becomes an Art Faire where festival-goers will find hundreds of hand crafted items by the very best artists and craft makers while browsing among 150 booths featuring original work in clothing, jewelry, paintings, wood objects, fiber arts, garden art and other gift items.

Dynamite Live Music

A dozen musical acts at five outdoor venues will play blues; bluegrass, classical, jam, and acoustic rock - a wide ranging musical mix on stage and street. Entertainment Tim Tutwiler has pulled together an entertainment lineup for the downtown area (featuring mostly local musicians) that ranges from solo acoustic guitar and vocals, to blues rock, country rock and more. At the vine, the more tranquil musical selections will include classical guitar and harp performed by local musicians.

Fabulous Food and Drink

Sierra Madre is blessed with a wonderful selection of restaurants featuring outdoor dining, including a variety of international flavors, Mexican, Italian, Thai, and California Continental cuisines, complemented by several types of American cuisine and even a Sushi spot. During the festival, you’ll find several food vendors in the park, including delicious BBQ, corn on the cob, empanadas, kettle corn and more. There’s a local pub, restaurants with full cocktail service, beer and wine establishments, and delicious margaritas to satisfy your mood.

Local Non-Profits

The Rotary Club will be serving tri-tip, the Garden Club will sell plants, the five years in a row award-winning Rose Float Assn. will be on hand, the world famous Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team will have a display, and other local organizations will be on hand, to showcase all that the volunteers of these organizations do.



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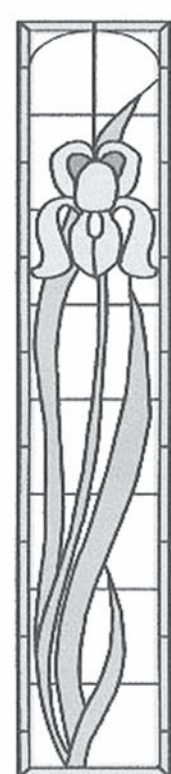
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One-of-a-kind 4BR, 4BA Craftsman rebuilt in 2005. Features include extensive use of granite throughout the interior, kitchen with beautiful custom cabinetry, inlaid wood, hardwood floors and new stainless steel appliances. Spacious open floor plan infused with light. Expansive outdoor living room at the front of the home is a great place for entertaining or relaxing. Tranquil backyard setting with beautiful oak tree and view of the mountains. Located near mountain trails, schools and close proximity to downtown Sierra Madre for shopping, transportation and dining. See more of this unique property at www.55olive.com.

Patricia Dmytrow
626.589.6519
pdmytrow@coldwellbanker.com



**Patricia
Dmytrow**



**500 Locke Haven
Pasadena**
Offered at
\$1,988,000

Janie Steckenrider
626.806.6337
www.janiesteckenrider.com
janie@janiesteckenrider.com

Designed by noted architect Joseph J. Blick in 1900, this two-story 4BA, 3BA architectural treasure radiates the charm & warmth of the Craftsman period. This magnificent home has original hardwood floors & hardware, high ceilings, wide moldings 2 fireplaces & natural light throughout. Amenities include a formal dining room, spacious kitchen with quaint breakfast room, family room, den, pool and spa. www.500lockehaven.com



1020 Fallen Leaf Road, Arcadia
Offered \$2,888,000

Magnificent estate with 6 bedrooms and 7 baths radiates attention to detail. Outstanding features include stunning mirrored dining room ceiling, fantastic Great Room with bar, large gourmet kitchen, Master Retreat with sitting room, marble floors in bath and balconies, office, exquisite moldings, gleaming hardwood floors and 5 fireplaces. This 5,734 sq. ft. home sits on nearly an acre of resort like yard with pool, spa, and multiple waterfalls. www.1020fallenleaf.com

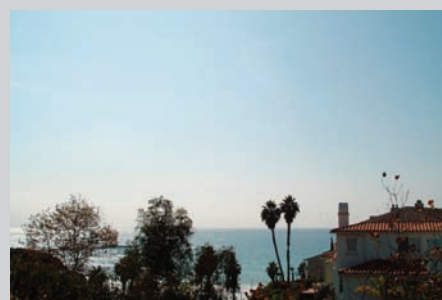
Janie Steckenrider Arcadia Regional Office
Coldwell Banker 626-254-1042



905 Singing Wood Dr., Arcadia
Offered at \$2,988,000

Stunning 4BR, 3.5BA contemporary-style estate on nearly an acre in Upper Rancho Area. Completely updated. Dramatic high ceilings, hardwood floors and walls of glass. Large family room with wet bar. Baths with marble and granite. Pool. Lush landscaped grounds.

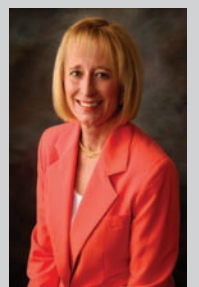
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244 W Marquita, San Clemente
\$650,000

Wonderful large flat lot with ocean views! Perfect to build your dream home or multiple units. One of the last few lots available in the area, over 6,000SF. Just steps from the beach!

Janie Steckenrider



Janie Steckenrider | 626.806.6337
www.janiesteckenrider.com | janie@janiesteckenrider.com



**9670
Las Tunas Dr.
Temple City**
\$675,000

This choice retail location in Temple City has central air & heat systems, public parking near rear off alley, approx 1,700 sq. ft. w/extra rooms or office upstairs (not included in sq. footage). Located across the street from City Hall and City Park.



Elmer Black
626-840-9215



Amy Ellis
626.278.5838
aellis@coldwellbanker.com

Tammy O'Neill
626.825.2082
tammy.oneill@camoves.com



705 Carriage House Drive, Arcadia

Nestled within the exclusive guard gated community of Anoakia Estates, this spectacular Mediterranean Villa offers breathtaking views of the majestic San Gabriel Mountains. Originally built in 2002, this estate has been elegantly updated with exquisite attention to detail throughout. The large open floor plan features five well-appointed bedroom suites with custom paint and window coverings, six remodeled bathrooms, formal living and dining rooms, library & media/game room. The gourmet designer eat-in kitchen with generous island adjoins the family room and welcomes easy outdoor entertaining. The professionally landscaped sprawling outdoor paradise features a rock formation pool and spa with slide and children's play yard, plus pool house w/bath. www.705CarriageHouseDrive.com

- 5461 Sq. Ft., Home per R.E.S.T
- 350 Sq. Ft., Pool House per R.E.S.T.
- 25,746 Sq. Ft., Lot
- 4-Car Garage
- State-of-the-Art Electronics
- Award-Winning Arcadia Schools



Offered at \$3,288,000



Amy Ellis



Tammy O'Neill



1328 Oakwood Dr., Arcadia

Located in the Highland Oaks area of Arcadia on a fabulous street, this 3BR, 2BA Ranch style home exudes charm & warmth. The lg LR w/picturesque windows, features hwd flrs & fpl. The cozy kit w/mtn views, adjoins the FR w/vaulted ceiling & a 2nd fpl. The private bkyd w/covered patio & lush landscaping is ideal for entertaining. Award winning Arcadia schools, transportation & shopping are very close by.

\$998,000



Amy Ellis
626.278.5838
aellis@coldwellbanker.com

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Located in the heart of Arcadia, these 2BR, 2BA condos are in the desirable Villa Fleurie complex. Their balconies offer mountain views. There is an inviting pool & spa. Homeowner's dues include water, trash, gardener, pool/spa service & insurance with earthquake coverage.



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**955 W Hillcrest Blvd.
Monrovia
\$875,000**



Fabulous gated 3BR/2.5BA custom home: Large LR w/fireplace & cathedral ceiling, formal DA, gourmet kitchen w/granite counters, breakfast area overlooking peaceful rear yd. Relaxing is easy in FR w/surround sound, fireplace & wet bar. Main-floor master suite has a wall of closets & private bath. Upstairs are 2 bdms, full bath & city light views. Upgrades include slate flooring, top-of-the-line carpet, central vac, Andersen high efficiency windows. Also enjoy the private patio w/gas hookup for BBQ & lush landscaping.

www.955Hillcrest.com

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radeyvogel@coldwellbanker.com



**146 Alabama St., San Gabriel
Offered for \$525,000**

Located in North San Gabriel, this tastefully remodeled and extensively updated single level home w/master suite and easy maintenance yard is just steps away from the member-only San Gabriel country club and Golf Course. Features include:

- New copper plumbing
- New interior/exterior paint
- New master bath
- Newly re-habbed hallway bath w/new sink, faucet, mirror, toilet & tiles
- Newly refinished island fr
- New kitchen w/granite countertop, new faucet, dishwasher & back splash w/tile tiles
- New roll-up garage door
- New AC condensing unit w/new ducting & newer heating unit
- 2 bedrooms + den
- 2 bathrooms
- 1,410SF (measured by REST)
- Lot Size: 4,210SF



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OPEN SUN 2-4

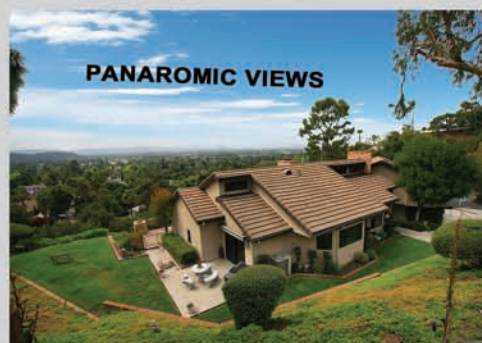
3627 Karen Sue Lane, La Canada Flintridge
Brand new Romani Construction La Canada hilltop estate. This 7,442SF home boasts 5bd, 7ba, a private theatre, elevator & walk in 1500+ bottle wine cellar. Custom infinity edge salt-water pool & spa, a gourmet bbq bar, & fireplace are surrounded by breathtaking panoramic views.
Offered at \$5,999,000



OPEN SUN 2-4

**591 N Alta Vista Ave.
\$1,698,000**

This gorgeous custom home was built in 1998 and is located in the prestigious Gold Hills w/5,178SF, 4BR + maids quarters, library, gourmet kitchen & wok kitchen plus much more.



PANAROMIC VIEWS

**845 N. Glendora Ave., Glendora
\$1,250,000**

Sitting high above Glendora in a secluded gated community is this gorgeous 4BR, 3.5BA custom built home. Great open floor plan, huge master suite with deck overlooking the city below and spacious family room.



**2228 E Oak Shade Rd., Bradbury
\$1,150,000**

This Spanish style home built in 2009 w/over 2,455SF sits on a 25,000SF plus lot in a very quiet location. With a rustic authentic look & feel this home offers 3BR, 3BA, spacious kitchen & many upscale features. Enjoy a big wrap around covered patio w/open beam ceiling & BBQ bar. Lots of RV prkg & a large yard.



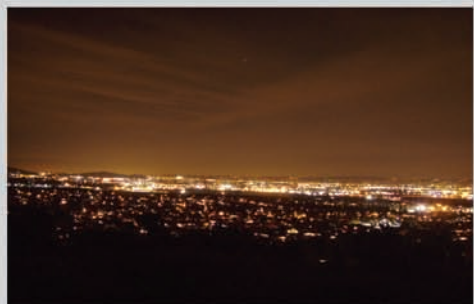
**320 Cabrillo Rd., Arcadia
\$968,000**

This lovely home is located in the desirable Village area of Arcadia features 4BR, 2.5BA, 2,297SF on a lot size of 10,210SF. Open floor plan and a huge family room with a fireplace and beautiful hardwood floors.



**20951 E Via Verde St., Covina
\$959,000**

This beautiful privately gated hill-top estate sits on 3.46 acres and includes spectacular park-like grounds that create a serene & sophisticated atmosphere perfect for entertaining. Landscaped w/gorgeous mature olive, ash, black walnut, Japanese maple trees & dozens of fruit trees. This single story traditional home features gorgeous panoramic views of the Glendora Valley.



**330 Mount Olive Dr., Bradbury
\$726,000**

This hard to find 1.35 view lot is located in a private, gated, 3 lot subdivision in the prestigious city of Bradbury and located at the top of the development with panoramic unobstructed views in every direction. The flat build able pad area is approx 17,000SF. Get ready to build your dream house!



**723 E Hermosa Dr., San Gabriel
\$726,000**

A diamond in the rough! Nice floor plan & very spacious rooms, 3,504 SF living space. The best value in North San Gabriel!



**363 Heather Heights Ct., Monrovia
\$699,000**

This English style hm is loaded w/charm & character & located on a very quiet street in a great neighborhood. Features include fabulous curb appeal, beautiful hdvd flrs, updated kitchen & baths, high ceilings in the spacious living & dining rms. 2 fpls, crown molding, wainscoting, formal entry, large master retreat & covered patio.



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**3521 Rubio Crest Dr.
Altadena
\$2,900/mo**

Spacious home on large lot w/stunning sunset views! Front & backyard have a bounty of rose bushes that will give you plentiful blooms in the spring. Living room has a fireplace & views of the mountains. Large sunroom can be used for a family room or game room. Master bedroom has 3/5 bath & a separate enclosed den. Large room off kitchen can be formal dining room or a great room. Kitchen has an eat-in breakfast nook & stainless steel appliances. Two-car attached garage.

Pauli Morin, Realtor, GRI, CN
Coldwell Banker
Arcadia Regional Office

626-233-2047
PMorin@coldwellbanker.com


Pauli Morin

**2131 Louise Ave.
Arcadia
\$998,000**

This charming 4BR, 3BA home has been meticulously maintained, kitchen has been custom designed w/hand made cabinets & Ceaser stone counter tops, all 3 baths have been completely re-done, wood floors throughout the entire house. 3-car attached garage and completely renovated in 2009. Gorgeous backyard w/ pool! Prestigious Arcadia Schools! Hurry – Won't Last!

Ash Rizk
626.393.5695 Cell

626.574-2321 Office
www.AshRizk.com


Ash Rizk

1232 Meadowbrook Altadena - \$729,000

Located near the Altadena Country Club, this unspoiled mid-century home features many of the classic details of it's era. In addition to the 3 bedrooms, there is a den with fireplace, which could become a 4th bedroom. Newer C/A & roof. Formal dining room with hardwood floors and living room have view of the San Gabriel Mountains.

Marsha Fields
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Canyon Rd.
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**Sue &
Maurice Orme**

**2211 Highland Oaks Dr., Arcadia
Offered at \$1,250,000**

You are greeted by a beautifully landscaped yard with large oak trees and picturesque wooden steps going up to the front door. The parking area in back next to the two-car oversized garage is large, affording room for an RV. There is also a level entry to the house from the back.

Upon entering the main floor in this gorgeous home you will find an expansive living room and dining area with lovely views of the mountains and landscape. The porcelain-tiled entry gives extra spaciousness to both the living room and family room. The large family kitchen has just been remodeled with new non-chip countertops, new fixtures and stainless steel appliances. There is a fireplace in the living room and a fireplace in the family room. The backyard has a pleasant patio and built in barbeque. One room has been converted from two bedrooms into a large office. At present there are three bedrooms and three baths.

Come and enjoy this home with us on Sunday and bring any friends or relatives who would like to live in this wonderful area!


**327 E Newman Ave.
Arcadia
\$649,000**

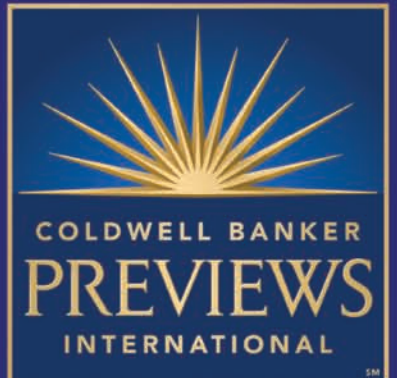
Remodeled in 2006 w/many upgrades, turnkey condition & near award winning Arcadia schools, park, stores & beautiful mtn views this home offers newly painted interior & exterior, newly refinished hwd flrs, water purifier, new driveway & attached garage w/auto opener. Pride of ownership is demonstrated in every detail of this beautiful home.

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**Oswego St.
Pasadena - \$399,000 - \$650,000**

7 Custom built luxury condos, all with different floor plans, ranging from 980 SF-1700 SF of living space. These condos feature 2 or 3 bedrooms, open floor plan, living room with fireplace, bamboo flooring, crown molding throughout, solid Maple kitchen cabinets and high grade appliances, tankless water heater, security system, fire sprinkler system and a few units have solar systems for saving energy.



**Oakwood Dr.
Arcadia - \$998,000**

Located in desirable Highland Oaks area of Arcadia, this traditional Ranch style home exudes charm and warmth. The large bright living room features newly finished hardwood floors and beautiful fireplace. Cozy kitchen with view, adjoins the family room with vaulted ceiling. Private backyard with covered patio and lush landscaping.



**Singing Wood Dr.
Arcadia - \$2,498,000**

Spectacular "Upper Rancho Estate", an entertainer's dream home with an expansive floor plan. Lavish master suite, enormous family and recreation rooms, bonus room for additional entertainment or 5th bedroom. Banquet-size formal dining room, updated kitchen with great room. This home has 6 fireplaces, new roof, new exterior siding, new copper plumbing and much more. Fabulous park-like grounds with pool, spa, waterfall, patio/deck area, 4-car (plus) garage and additional parking.



Peggy Fong Chen

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**Olive St.
Temple City - \$1,038,000**

Lovely property, completely remodeled in 1995. 2 homes on 1 large lot. Main house is approx 2400 Sq Ft with 4beds/3baths, huge master bedroom suite on 2nd floor with large bathroom and walk-in closet. The main home features a family room with cozy fireplace, upgraded open kitchen with formal dining area, beautiful covered patio. Back house is approx 650 Sq Ft with large 1bed/1bath, also upgraded with open kitchen and hardwood floors.



**Maple Ave.
Monrovia - \$609,000**

Great single family home w/ guest house situated on a large lot with many upgrades. This lovely home features 2 master suite bedrooms, with a den can be served as a 3rd bedroom and is currently an office, living room and family room w/ fireplace. Recently remodeled in 2007, new interior paint, new hardwood floors, kitchen with new granite counter top and raised ceiling, all new blinds, new sprinkler system throughout front and back yard. Guest house with full kitchen and bathroom. Huge storage in basement. Yard with over 7 types of fruit trees. The house is 1,381 SQ/FT and Guest house is 335 SQ/FT.



**Michigan Ave.
Pasadena - \$395,000**

Great starter home, prime location in the heart of Pasadena. Close to PCC and Caltech. Completely upgraded with new pergo hardwood floors throughout, kitchen with new granite counters and cabinets. This lovely home is 2bed/2baths. Home is approx. 1000 sq ft with open floor plan, very bright and airy; living room with cozy fireplace, in-unit laundry hook-ups, private patio and 2 car garage.



**Merced Ave.
Baldwin Park - \$3,580,000**

Rare find, 18 condo units nicely maintained with upgrades. Nice and convenient location. Minutes to freeway and shops. Great income with low expenses. Individual water, gas and electric meters. Building approx. 21,500 sq. ft. and lot is 38,311 sq. ft. 10 -2 bedroom units and 8 - 3 bedroom units.



**Huntington Dr.
Los Angeles - \$1,789,000**

LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION! This quaint 16 unit apartment is on Huntington Dr. next to South Pasadena and Minutes to LA. The building is well maintained, with recent upgrades: new electrical rewiring year 2008, new interior and exterior paint, partial copper plumbing and much more. The building is approx. 9,300 SF with 12 Studios and 4 - 1 bedroom units. The lot is approx. 12,000 SF EXCELLENT INVESTMENT!



**352 Hill St.
Monrovia - \$899,000**

Great N Monrovia neighborhood w/ gorgeous city light & mtn views! 3,174SF, 4 lrg bdrs, completely renovated cook's kitchen w/ top of the line appliances, formal dining room, wood floors and new carpet. 4 fpl's, finished basement w/ blt-in speakers & 11ft wide projection screen & wine cellar. New electric & plumbing throughout, CA/FA, new roof & brick bbq w/ permanent gas line. Move-in ready!

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OPPORTUNITY!

520 N. Michillinda Ave., Sierra Madre
Offered for \$1,100,000



Gorgeous location, high in the hills of Sierra Madre, with inspiring mountain views. Very large lot and house with 1 bedroom guest quarters. Ample room for expansion! Note: City says lot may be split into two lots.

Lot Size: 28,875
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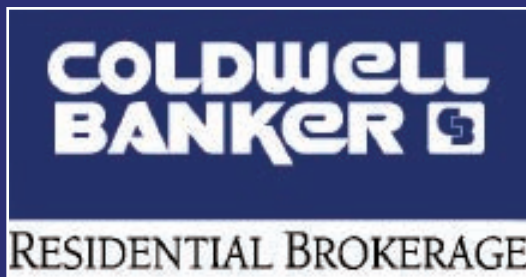
**145 Monte Vista Ln.
Sierra Madre
\$1,488,000**

Beautiful Sierra Madre home w/ approx 3,820SF, completely remodeled w/ 5BR, 4BA, family rm, formal DR, gourmet kitchen w/ Viking appliances, loft, 4 fpl's, detached studio/office. Professionally land-scaped. 17,290SF lot.



Jeannie Vukovich
Coldwell Banker
Arcadia Regional Office
626.622.4355





**955 W Hillcrest Blvd.
Monrovia
\$875,000**



Fabulous gated 3BR/2.5BA custom home: Large LR w/fireplace & cathedral ceiling, formal DA, gourmet kitchen w/granite counters, breakfast area overlooking peaceful rear yd. Relaxing is easy in FR w/surround sound, fireplace & wet bar. Main-floor master suite has a wall of closets & private bath. Upstairs are 2 bdms, full bath & city light views. Upgrades include slate flooring, top-of-the-line carpet, central vac, Andersen high efficiency windows. Also enjoy the private patio w/gas hookup for BBQ & lush landscaping.

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West Covina**



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1-Level Arcadia Condominiums 530 & 540 Fairview Ave.



Located in the heart of Arcadia, these 2BR, 2BA condos are in the desirable Villa Fleurie complex. Their balconies offer mountain views. There is an inviting pool & spa. Homeowner's dues include water, trash, gardener, pool/spa service & insurance with earthquake coverage.



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2035 10th St.

Great neighborhood in La Verne offers this 3 bedroom, 1.75 bath home w/ newer interior paint & carpeting. Come by and see for yourself or call me for more details!

LaVerne - \$324,800

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Bevin Eustace

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Patrice Jacobs



**99 Auburn St., Sierra Madre
\$489,000**



**50 Esperanza Ave. #C, Sierra Madre
\$640,000**

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Bevin and Patrice have both been residents of Sierra Madre for almost 20 years. We are raising our children in this wonderful community we call home. We are actively involved in our children's schools, church, little league, softball, cub scouts, girl scouts, soccer and many other wonderful activities that our community has to offer. We are proud to live in this wonderful community.

As local realtors we understand that there are many qualities and skills that go into being an excellent real estate professional. We strive to always do our best by putting our clients first. We have integrity, in-depth community and market knowledge, effective negotiation skills, as well as being good communicators responding quickly to our clients needs.

We should like to thank our clients for putting their trust in us to do the best possible job we can. If you would like a free comparative analysis of your home, please feel free to contact either one of us. We look forward to being of service!



**230 Jameson Ct., Sierra Madre
\$1,225,000**



**470 Gatewood Ln., Sierra Madre
\$730,000**



**646 W Sierra Madre Blvd. #C, Sierra Madre
\$822,200**

Patrice Jacobs
626.221.0213
patricejacobs@verizon.net