



Happy Easter

HAPPY PASSOVER

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Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

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Monrovia

SATURDAY APRIL 3, 2010

VOLUME 4 NO. 13

2010

Sierra Madre

Municipal Election



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.

Candidate Pat Alcorn

Having worked as a volunteer in Sierra Madre through civic organizations and public commissions and committees my entire 38 years of living in Sierra Madre, I have a great understanding of the issues surrounding this election. I am familiar with staff, policies and procedures, and the budget of Sierra Madre. In the past four years, I have attended strategic planning, budget, and commission meetings, as well as maintaining my other volunteer activities through Civic Club and Friends of the Library. I have attended all but one City Council meeting in two years. I am currently on the Community Services Commission, the ad hoc committee on Water Conservation Education and the ad hoc Committee on Transportation. I am running for City Council because I am prepared to work with all citizens, youth through seniors, and the City staff to continue the course of budget responsibilities and service oriented programs that serve our community best.



Fiscal responsibility and development have long been the issues of each council election. We are facing a series of attempts by regional and state agencies to usurp local control of finances and housing regulations that could irrevocably change the face of Sierra Madre. When elected I will continue working with our neighboring cities and with our regional governments to maintain local control of our city housing, land use and revenues. I will continue the spirit of cooperation between our neighboring cities in terms of public safety, water sharing and civic events. I encourage property development but in a responsible manner within the parameters of our current local zoning, hillside and General Plan ordinances.

Lastly, when elected I will continue to encourage volunteer participation in our city government such as our Green Committee, Canyon Zone Update and the General Plan Update, without the use of paid consultants.

REVISED MV NEWS ELECTION COVERAGE

Next Week: Candidate Josh Moran

IMPORTANT DATES: (Per the City Clerk)

March 15-April 6

Voters May Request Vote-by-Mail Ballots with Regular Applications

April 6, 2010

APRIL 13, 2010

Last Day To Return Vote By Mail Ballots
ELECTION DAY

CORRECTION:

in last week's edition, we reported that one speaker spoke for 15 minutes. That is incorrect. The total rant time was approximately 17 minutes with one speaker speaking no less than 7 minutes, well beyond the 3 minute limit imposed on most of the public.

The Science of Easter

By Craig Hakola

Science can explain much of the physical world that we see but possesses finite boundaries to explain some of the most significant elements of our life, such as, why we love someone. As CS Lewis observed, it also remains helpless in explaining Miracles, "...interference with Nature by supernatural power." Miracles cannot be explained by science, their very nature places them outside of its finite understanding. As Easter approaches we cannot setup a laboratory to examine what may have occurred with a burial rock some two thousand years ago but there are clues that may offer some evidence of the event.

For the Christian, the science of Easter is no science at all but that of faith and a historical record. The story of Easter begins in the early pages of the Old Testament. There it is shown that sin carries an inherit penalty and there is a judgment that must be paid. This theme of judgment and penalty is firmly planted through the pages of the Old Testament of the Bible. It is in those pages that we discover that sin is so egregious to God

we may look a primitive act. But if we through, not our righteous judge, understand why high. For any there must be firm rules. Otherwise chaos ensues and what will flourish is a mob and anarchy. For rules to have any meaning they must be enforced or they are not rules at all but suggestions. If God is to be called a pure judge, he must enforce the rules with a judgment that he deems suitable to the offense.

What evidence does history tell us and why should we believe a two thousand year old story about Jesus? The account of Jesus defies the model of a fable. We know from written references that Jesus lived and the story of his life is unconventional for its time. For the story of his life, elevates women and places them as essential figures of the New Testament. The life of



The Fish Were Jumpin'



The Sierra Madre Huck Finn Fishing Derby was held this past Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 7:00am - 11:30am. Over 200 youth participated in the Huck Finn Fishing Derby with many parents and family friends in attendance as well. Awards were given in the following four age categories.

Age Category 3-6 years:

- 1st - Andrea Peeler
- 2nd - Landon Grohs
- 3rd - Loren Lomboy

Age Category 7-9 years:

- 1st - Jillian Krueger
- 2nd - Carolyn Peterson
- 3rd - Jacob Abney

Age Category 10-12 years:

- 1st - Destiny Miller
- 2nd - Kristin Shigenaga
- 3rd - Caleb Vance

Age Category 13-15 years:

- 1st - Alexandra Krueger
- 2nd - Kaila Rillorta
- 3rd - Grant McComb

Largest Overall Fish - Andrea Peeler (6.1 lbs.)

Smallest Overall fish - Joseph De La Portilla (0.9 lbs)

SMFD Volunteers - Heroes or Hosers?

Commentary and Photo by Bill Coburn

This editorial is the opinion of Bill Coburn, publisher of Sierra Madre News Net and 15 year Sierra Madre resident. It is not intended to reflect the views of any other person or entity with whom I am associated.

In the days following the Santa Anita Fire in April and May of 2008, the grateful residents of this town made no secret of their gratitude to the heroes who stood along the fire lines and fought back the flames that were destroying much of the hillside behind our village, manning fronts along the fire line, protecting their neighbors, and preventing the loss of even a single home, though the flames came within striking distance at multiple locations. Home made signs sprung up, letters to the editor were written, and Sierra Madreans stood up at local public meetings to express their undying gratitude to the volunteers of the Sierra Madre Fire Department.

Now, just two years later, some members of the community seem to have forgotten that it was these firefighting heroes, along with fire departments from all over California, that saved this town from destruction. Apparently for some, "gratitude" doesn't have the shelf life it once did.

A few nights ago, bloggers posted comments on Sierra Madre Tattler, the blog operated by City Council candidate John Crawford, calling the Department "the laughing stock of the state." Naturally, as often happens, the Department's leader was the lightning rod. One blogger stated that SMFD Chief "Steve Heydorf (sic), who is currently getting paid over \$120,000 a year to be our "volunteer" fire Chief does nothing except either sit on his fat butt all day in the Development Services department, or drive around in the shiny, brand new, command vehicle doing his personal errands." Another

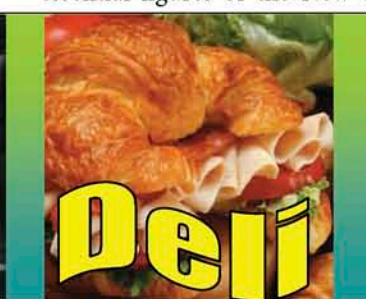


poster said the department is "...just an 'elite' club of self-important windbags now, with questionable ability to battle a wastebasket fire." Apparently, their ability to fight fires has undergone a rapid decline, having gone from a successful defense against walls of flame racing down hillsides toward our homes, to, according to this poster, an inability to extinguish a few burning pieces of paper.

It wasn't just the Fire Department that took the hits, nearly half of your non-firefighting neighbors were accused of wanting their neighbors' homes to burn: "I've heard the DIRTs say before, that they wish a huge fire would burn down every house in the canyon. No wonder why they had no problem with Lowe/Heydorf (sic)/Bamberger/Burnett taking Fire Dept. vehicles out of the city for personal use. Who needs a Fire Department when (cont. page 3)

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Niko & friends
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626-610-6151 M-F: 7-6, S: 8:30-1:30,
Closed Sunday

Weather Wise



5-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon:	Showers	Hi 60s	Lows 50s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

Travelers and Collectors Speakers Series

On Friday, April 9, Don and Janet Heins will present "Adventures Along the Dalmatian Coast to the Greek Isles." The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. The Heins's journeyed through the former Yugoslavia (now Croatia, Montenegro, and Albania) on a small ship, which enabled them to stop at several of the Romantic Ancient Islands off the Dalmatian Coast. Their excursion continued through the Corinth Canal to Athens, and ended with a trip to Santorini and Mykonos—Greece's most popular islands. "Armchair travelers" will enjoy the Hein's unique, up-close-and-personal view of the people, history, and colorful lands of the Mediterranean.

This program is free and open to the public. A program schedule is available at the Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., and can also be found on the Library website, www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us. Travelers and Collectors is held on the second Friday of the month, February through May, and is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For more **information please call Catriona Shafer at (626) 355-7186**.

EASTER AT DESCANSO GARDENS

This Easter time, Descanso Gardens welcomes the holiday with its traditional egg hunt and popular weekend brunches.

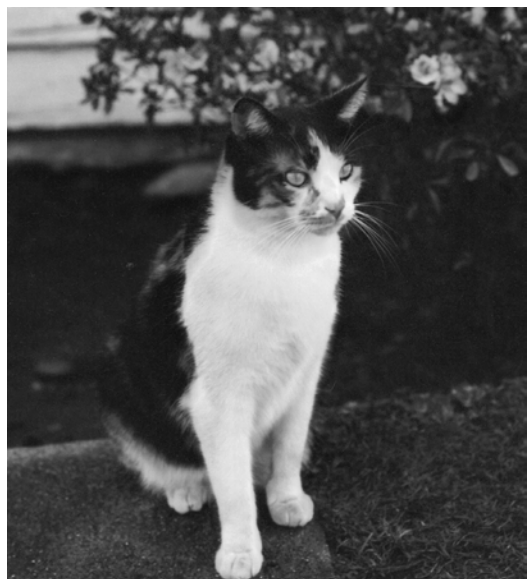
Easter weekend, April 3 and April 4, enjoy a holiday brunch with seatings at 9 and 10:30 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m. Indulge in a scrumptious buffet brunch by Patina chefs served in Descanso's Rose Pavilion.

Partial menu items includes: seasonal fruit ratatouille, vanilla bean yogurt, build your own waffle bar, honey glazed ham, applewood smoke bacon and warm chocolate croissant bread pudding.

All children 12 and younger will receive an Easter basket and participate in an egg hunt!

Cost: \$50, \$42 members, \$20 children ages 4-10, free for children 3 and younger. Reservations with a credit card are required. Call Patina at (818) 790-3663. For cancellations, please call at least 48 hours in advance or a 50 percent fee will apply.

MISSING CAT



Please help us find our missing calico cat named "Pooka". She was last seen on Monday, March 29th at 9pm at 162 East Sierra Madre Blvd.

She was very scared because she was tangled in a plastic bag. She has come in regularly every night for the past 7 years. ***If anyone has seen her or has any information please call 626-277-9741***

Résumé Workshop at Sierra Madre Public Library

Are you between jobs, changing careers, or re-entering the work force, and want to ensure that your résumé is well designed and organized, and apt to get noticed by prospective employers? On Thursday, April 22, at 7:00 p.m., Melanie Hamon of CareerCoachPro will present "Résumés That Work," a workshop explaining the "do's and don'ts" of résumé preparation and how to craft one that will help you stand out and win that all-important interview. Learn the key elements that employers look for and how to present your accomplishments to best advantage. To obtain the maximum benefit from this workshop, please bring your résumé or a summary of your work history, volunteer activities, and other achievements. This program is free and open to the public.

The Sierra Madre Public Library is your source for up-to-date career and job-hunting resources. If you do not have a computer and need to fill out job applications on-line, internet access is available with your Sierra Madre Library card. If you are new to computers, or need a refresher course or two, the Library offers free computer classes year-round. A current class schedule is available at the Service Desk and on the Library website.

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.

Live from Burger Continental The Harvey Hyde Show

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

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

Creative Arts Group Celebrates 50 Years with Art of the Garden Tour

April 18, 2010 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tickets: \$25 pre-sale \$30 day of tour

Tickets can be purchased at Creative Arts Group, 108 N. Baldwin Ave., Sierra Madre 91024 or by phone 626-355-8350



Colonial Manor

This home and garden has all the stately formality and symmetry synonymous with a classic Colonial Manor. The front lawn is shaded by tall Sycamores, Jacarandas, and an Engelmann Oak as well as the more commonplace Coastal Live Oaks. A bench placed opposite the front entryway is surrounded by white roses and potted lavender. A small stand of towering Redwoods mark the entrance to the back of the property via the Ficus-lined driveway, and wrought-iron gates leading to the back yard. An expansive lawn, perfect for entertaining large numbers of people stretches across the back of the property. Brick walkways delineate and divide the greenway with pleasing symmetry appropriate to the architecture of the house. A large pool flanked by roses and citrus trees takes center stage in this private back yard. A pool house with outdoor living room, a covered brick terrace that steps down from the back of the residence and two BBQ areas offer several options for al fresco dining and entertaining. A walkway past a tennis court is lined with Gingko trees and Irises. A spikey-trunked Chorisia with its bold pink flowers shades the garage and twin Golden Rain Trees flank the covered terrace. Crepe Myrtles lead to a side yard where a pergola provides structure to another expanse of lawn.

Symmetrical brick pathways add structure to this formal outdoor space while flowering plants and trees and sweeping lawns soften the landscape and provide room for gracious entertaining.

St. Rita's Semi-Annual Welcome Event

Sunday, April 25 at 3 p.m.

New to St. Rita's church or school and don't feel you know many members? Moved to Sierra Madre recently, and looking for a new Catholic church home? Belonged to St. Rita's for a long time, but don't feel you've connected yet? Let us welcome you to St. Rita's!

Join us Sunday afternoon, April 25, at 3 p.m. for a casual wine and cheese gathering at the home of Dick and Chris Bertrand. Please bring a bottle of wine or your favorite beverage, a cheese and crackers plate, or an appetizer to share.

Representatives of various St. Rita organizations will join our pastor, Father Krekelberg, to welcome you to our wonderful parish community! At 5 p.m., following the gathering, we will tour the St. Rita's campus and facilities, with those who are interested. RSVP to Chris Bertrand at 626-355-1621 or to PR@St-Rita.org.

Come Enjoy a Day at Memorial Park for an Anarchist Picnic on Saturday April 10th, 2010.

The Sierra Madre Anarchist Picnics are monthly events for local and not-so-local anarchists as well as anyone interested or curious about creating another world without capitalism, government or domination. Come hang out, make friends, eat food and share experiences. The picnics are also completely open to anyone who is respectful of the topics and ideas presented.

This picnic there will be a presentation by Anna Kunkin, a member of Los Angeles Independent Media (la.indymedia.org) on "Being the Media" instead of relying on other "professionals" to write about your experiences.

There will also be a discussion on Giles Duave (aka Jean Barrot): Left Communism and Democracy by Vladada, a member of the Acratas Collective and a former member of many different projects and collectives in the past from the LA area (Flor y Canto, Sandpaper Books, LA Anarchist Bookfair, etc...) The event starts at noon, is an Anything Goes Potluck, FREE, all ages, and there may be some performances. Please bring a dish to share as well as any picnic-ware you feel necessary.

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

Wednesday 3-7 pm

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.

The Summer Vegetable Garden

Saturday, April 10

10:00am - 12Noon

John Lyons, Instructor

Get up to speed on how to transition from the winter garden to the summer season. Soil preparation, warm season plant choices, correct placement, crop care and feeding will be explored. Organic pest control and good succession planting will also be a focus. A gardener by trade, John Lyons designs, installs and maintains edible landscapes, California Native gardens, orchards and wild hedgerows. Originally from Ireland, he has had gardens in Galway, London, Zurich, New York and Los Angeles. John will inspire, cajole and inform fellow gardeners to try new things, keep doing what they are doing, and dream new landscapes and plant-combo conspiracies.

\$22 members/\$25 non-members

Reservations: Please call 626.821.4623 or email jill.berry@arboretum.org

Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council Monthly Education Meeting Monday April 5th at 7pm



The Monthly education meeting for April will feature speakers and presenters on the following topics with an emphasis on the approaching Fire Season:

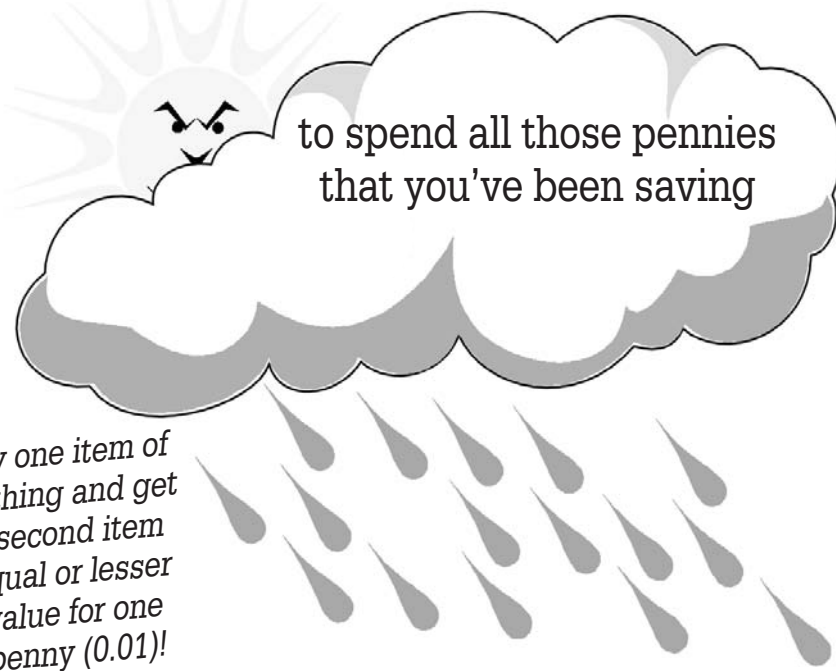
*Fire Marshal Richard Snyder will speak in depth about what Sierra Madre is doing to prepare for the 2010 fire season and what you can do as an individual.

*We will be updated on the Fuel Reduction underway in Bailey Canyon

*Interactions with Federal and State Government Bodies

*The role of our Community Emergency Response Teams(CERT) in a Fire Situation
Visit the SM Fire Safe Council Website

The time has come...



at the Wistaria Thrift Shop April Penny Sale

Each Monday, Thursday, and Friday in April
from 10:00am to 3:00pm and on the
1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month

550 West
Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
(626) 355-7739

Proceeds benefit the
Sierra Madre
Women's Club Charities



REMEMBRANCE

EDNA COLLAMER PEYTON



Edna Collamer Peyton, 95, passed away peacefully on March 27, 2010. Born September 27, 1914 in Fort Collins, Colorado, Edna was the second of two girls. At the age of six, Edna came west with her mother and sister, settling in the Highland Park area of Los Angeles. After graduating from Franklin High School and working as a PBX operator, Edna met the love of her life, Hugh Peyton, at a local dance. They were married June 24, 1937, soon after he had been accepted by the L. A. Police Department as a motorcycle officer. They had

two daughters, Susan and Dixie, and Edna dedicated her life to her family, friends, and church. The family loved to travel, often taking two-month summer car trips across the USA with Edna cooking on a camp stove and washing clothes in streams. Widowed in 1975, Edna continued living in the family home while widening her circle of friends. She traveled to Europe, the Pacific, and Alaska, seeing new places and making friends. Having many friends in town and being an officer of the Woman's Club, Edna moved to Sierra Madre in 2007. Not one to stay at home, she continued her activities even when she was no longer able to walk and could be seen scooting around town in her electric wheelchair. Edna was preceded in death by her husband Hugh and eldest daughter Susan. She leaves her daughter Dixie, grandchildren Peyton, Malia, Ivan, David, and great-grandchild Delilah. Graveside services will be held at the Sierra Madre Pioneer Cemetery on Friday, April 9, at 11 a.m. with a reception following at the Sierra Madre Woman's Club.

EASTER (cont. from pg.1)

robbed by the powerful display of the crucifixion. The tears may have been falling as Mary approached the tomb and then she saw it, something that she could not believe, the stone was rolled aside. She rushed in and the body was gone. Two men appear to her and told Mary, that he had risen from the grave. On the road back, she rushed to tell the followers of Jesus, and it is there that the risen Jesus meets Mary. She is the first person to see Jesus alive since the crucifixion. Here we have the most important event in the entire Bible, and a woman witnesses it. She is important in another manner too, she is the only person that is referenced at the Crucifixion of Jesus, his burial and his resurrection. Though her testimony is not valid in a Jewish court of law, she is the lead witness in the New Testament. This is not the type of story that rings of a mere fable. Rather, there is a

dynamic at work here, one that goes counter to social norms of the period. The story stands apart because of sea change and the way the world is viewed in this story.

So, what does the event of Easter mean to the Christian religion?

It is the most important event of the entire Bible to Christians. For it is the piece that makes the puzzle become a picture. Here we discover a deeper love than we imagined. For the revelation of an amazing judge is unveiled. A judge, who, because of his character and nature must enforce the law but remains sympathetic to the people he must judge. Here we discover that the price for our sins was very, very high, and that the judge could not bear to see us pay it, and he knew we did not have the ability to pay it. So, he paid the price for us, himself, upon a cross.

Happy Easter. He is Risen.
Craighakola@aol.com

Altadena

Altadena Soroptomist Honor Excellence



1. Soroptomist International of Altadena/Pasadena WOA honorees, from left: Ca'Leah King, Thuong Tran, and Amaris Burkel.

By Lynne Eodice

PASADENA – Although she once led a childhood of poverty and is now a single parent, Thuong (Susan) Tran has received \$1,000 in scholarship money from Soroptomists to continue her goal of earning a B.A. degree in nursing. In her application to the club's Women's Opportunity Awards, she noted that her father died of cancer when she was very young, and said that the nursing profession "will allow me to serve the community and be part of the healing process to those who are ill."

Field representative Tanganica Turner also presented Tran with a special recognition from Assemblyman Anthony Portantino's office in the 44th district.

At Beckham's Grill in Pasadena on Wednesday, March 24th, Tran, 27, and two other young women – Amaris Burkel, 23, and Ca'Leah King, 27 – were recipients of the Soroptomist Women's Opportunity Award from Soroptomist International of Altadena/Pasadena at the club's "Live Your Dream" awards luncheon. Club president Marilyn Commodore began the program by emphasizing the theme of this event. "Whatever you do, don't give up on your dream," she said.

Burkel is also a single parent who once lived at Elizabeth House, a pregnancy crisis home. She plans to use her \$500 award towards a B.A. degree in psychology. King, whose mother died when she was very young, became the legal guardian of her siblings. Also a single mother, she was also awarded \$500 from Soroptomists and plans to

possibly pursue a career as a parole officer. Marcy Pedersen, club chairperson for the WOA awards, addressed the winners: "You are our future," she said. "Thank you for sharing your stories."

The "Live Your Dream" awards luncheon also honored Helen Overstreet with the organization's Ruby Award, which recognizes women working to improve the lives of women and girls in the local community. Overstreet led efforts to collect book donations and organize book sales for the Friends of the Altadena Library. The club made a donation to the library in her honor.

Malia Mailes was awarded the club's Violet Richardson Award, which honors exceptional volunteer service by a female high school student. A junior at La Canada High School, Mailes recently conducted the "Angeles Crest Safety Project," when she chose to focus her Girl Scout Gold Award project on investigating why truck accidents occurred repeatedly in her community. She continued to work with legislators and government agencies to remedy this problem, especially after another truck lost its brakes, killing two people and injuring 12. "When this accident happened, I thought my work hadn't been effective," she commented. But because of Mailes' tenacity, a law has been passed to ban trucks on Angeles Crest Highway.

This inspiring awards program represents the major project for Soroptomist International, whose mission is to improve the lives of women and girls in the local community and throughout the world.

FIRE DEPARTMENT (cont. from page 1)

you're waiting for the whole city to burn up in flames." For the unaware, DIRTS is the term used on Crawford's blog to describe opponents of Measure V, the controversial ordinance limiting downtown development which in 2007 eked out a victory of fewer than 100 votes out of 3,500 votes cast. I'm not sure how disagreeing with someone over the methods used to limit growth downtown translates to a desire to see our historic canyon burn, but apparently, if this poster is to be believed, that's what "the dirt's" want.

But most of the negativity was directed at the Dept. itself. "For a long, long time they protected the city with a pair of 1950's era Crown fire engines just fine. There were a couple of 2nd or 3rd hand support vehicles. Now they have several late model engines, a ladder truck, ambulances, water tankers, suburbans, Tahoe, etc. etc. etc. All that's missing is a helicopter but I have a hunch they have tried to figure out how to get one!... Why do we give these guys any toy they want, whenever they want??" "The people in charge of the fire department are DIRTS, just like everyone in city Hall. They don't have a problem wasting our money because they would love to see Sierra Madre go bankrupt... If you're wondering why they're able to get away with it, it's because their boss, the city manager, is a died in the wool dirt, just like them." The logic of that statement escapes me. Does this person really think it's Elaine Aguilar's goal to drive the city bankrupt, which would, of course, leave her without a job? But I digress. "Considering the sums of money that have been and are being wasted on that club, I would support contracting out fire services as well. For a few hundred thousand dollars more a year, we can get professional fire fighters, that can actually save lives and property, instead of a bunch of pictures of a burned out building and a death certificate." Ouch.

The men and women of the Sierra Madre Fire Department spend long hours training WITH NO PAY so that they will be prepared to, WITH NO PAY, get up in the middle of the night to, WITH NO PAY, leave the warmth of their homes and the loving arms of their family and WITH NO PAY rush to your home and WITH NO PAY save our pets, our possessions, our property or in some cases, our lives. And they do this for false alarms and non-emergencies, as well. Did I mention that they do this, without pay? According to Salary.com, the median salary for a firefighter in the U.S. is in excess of \$40,000/yr., significantly more than the \$0 paid to all but three Sierra Madre firefighters.

One would expect that a City Council candidate in a town that has traditionally taken great pride in its fire department, which is now more than ninety years old, would say a few words in support of these brave men and women, if only to safeguard the votes of the members of the department and the residents who appreciate and support the department. Yet Crawford remained silent, allowing his supporters to denigrate the firefighters without a single word in their defense. Should his silence be interpreted as tacit agreement with the folks who would so willingly dishonor our hometown heroes? And by extension, the other members of the Crawford/Alcorn/Watts slate, since they "have like beliefs and ideas?"

Ordinarily, I wouldn't feel that a person is responsible for things that other people say. However, in this election, Candidate John Crawford has asked voters to "Send this blog to the City Council" in his request for donations to fund his campaign. As such, I think it's fair to consider the content of the entire blog, and not

just Mr. Crawford's personal observations on the blog, when considering whether or not to vote for Mr. Crawford, thereby sending "this blog to the City Council."

Since Mr. Crawford chose to remain silent in the face of this criticism of one of Sierra Madre's most revered institutions, I can't say if that silence should be interpreted as agreement with his supporters, but it makes me wonder - should this slate become the majority on the City Council, will the Department survive to celebrate a centennial? A thought I hope Sierra Madre voters will consider when they cast their votes on April 13th. After all, the Council was considering proposals to possibly outsource fire suppression, but it was delayed until after the election, and while I didn't see the meeting, I'm told that it was at the suggestion of one of the members of the slate, Council Member Don Watts.

In full disclosure, I have a personal stake in this discussion. My brother-in-law, Battalion Chief Bob Burnett, has been on the Department nearly twenty-five years. I also have a brother that is a paramedic and firefighter in another department. So maybe I'm a little overly-sensitive to unwarranted criticism of the people who invest so much of their lives in protecting ours.

I thought that in closing, it might be beneficial to talk a little about the Department. Perhaps the people who were so willing to berate our VOLUNTEERS just don't know enough about the department, and would not have taken it to task if they knew a little more about it. So here's a little history, and a few facts about our department.

According to an article written by then Fire Dept. Chief Jim Heasley in the June 9th, 1949 edition of the Sierra Madre News, SMFD was started after a disastrous fire in 1919, in which a bakery burned and "the fire could not be controlled by the local untrained men without proper equipment. Only a hand hose cart was then in use." Monrovia Fire Dept. was called in, but the local business owners felt that more and better fire protection was needed. At its next meeting, the Board of Trade (precursor to the Chamber of Commerce), appointed two men to investigate the costs of Sierra Madre obtaining a fire engine and other equipment. During a demonstration of an engine, a local boy was "badly crippled by having his leg broken when the high pressure hose escaped the hands of the amateur fire fighters. This proved more than ever the necessity of a trained fire fighting force." Shortly thereafter, the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department was organized. According to Heasley, "There were so many men who wanted to join the fire department that it was necessary to organize a 'Firemen's Club' made up of men of all trades and businesses of the City." Today, ninety years later, that tradition continues, with the addition of women to the ranks, and, in 2007, paramedics.

A few facts about Sierra Madre's Volunteer Fire Department:

The Department consists currently is fully staffed, with 54 volunteers, three paid personnel and 27 paramedics. The Fire Chief oversees the administrative functions, daily operations, and response capabilities of the Sierra Madre Fire Department. The three Battalion Chiefs oversee fire prevention, training, personnel, and EMS training and quality assurance, as well as rotating the on duty battalion chief responsibilities. The six Fire Captains oversee crew training, station maintenance and equipment, and first in district pre-plans.

The Department currently has an ISO rating of 4, on a scale of 1 through 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and

Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria. In my opinion, a Class four rating is hardly in the category of a "laughing stock of the state." This rating is developed according to ISO's Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). The schedule measures the major elements of a community's fire-suppression system. Ten percent of the overall grading is based on how well the fire department receives fire alarms and dispatches its fire-fighting resources, i.e., communication center, dispatch, etc. Fifty percent of the overall grading is based on the number of engine companies and the amount of water a community needs to fight a fire. ISO reviews the distribution of fire companies throughout the area and checks that the fire department tests its pumps regularly and inventories each engine company's nozzles, hoses, breathing apparatus, and other equipment. The Sierra Madre Fire Department has a 1989 Mack Type 1 Engine, soon to be replaced, and a 2000 E-ONE; a 2,800 gallon Water Tender; one Chief's vehicle; one Command Vehicle; an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) trailer; a Utility truck; a Brush Patrol Truck; and two Rescue Ambulances. It should be noted that contrary to the blogger's impression that we "give these guys any toy they want, whenever they want," our *newest* engine is ten years old. The Water Tender truck is nearly 35 years old. We are all aware of the explosion that has taken place in technology in the last thirty years, fire suppression technology, too, has changed dramatically since much of the equipment that Sierra Madre's Fire Department uses was manufactured. Public safety should be a top priority for our City officials – THAT'S why we should give these guys new toys.

Thanks to a generous gift from the Rotary Club last year, the trucks are now outfitted with state of the radio communication systems. Prior to Rotary's gift, some of the engines were operating with outdated equipment that did not adhere to the Homeland Security communication standards established after 9/11. Thank you Rotary!

Forty percent of the grading is based on the community's water supply. This part of the survey focuses on whether the community has sufficient water supply for fire suppression beyond daily maximum consumption. ISO surveys all components of the water supply system, including pumps, storage, and filtration.

During 2009, the Department responded to 28 fire calls, 590 medical calls (about 480 of which were advanced Life Support Calls) and 200 service calls. 2009 was the third consecutive year in which the Department responded to more than 800 calls. The Department responds to all

Easter at San Marino Community Church

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES, April 4, 2010

7:00 am Community Sunrise Service
at Lacy Park

Jennifer Baer, Director of Christian
Education preaching

Worship leadership provided
by SMCC Student ministry

All welcome!

9:15 & 11:15 Traditional Worship Services

The Rev. Jeffrey O'Grady, Pastor preaching:
"The Power of Resurrection"

Featuring at both services:
Choirs, Brass, Organ,
Childcare and Sunday School (K-5)



San Marino Community Church

1750 Virginia Road, San Marino, CA 91108

For more information call: (626) 282-4181

Connect with us online: www.smccpby.com



first alarm brush responses in the San Gabriel Mountains above the City of Sierra Madre with the Cities of Arcadia, Monrovia, Pasadena, the County of Los Angeles, and the United States Forest Service. The Department also participates in the California State-wide Mutual Aid Program by providing resources for the State of California Office of Emergency Services with the OES Engine.

Property damage in 2009 was less than \$160,000, with structure fires at \$130,000, vehicle fires at about \$24,000, and miscellaneous fires just under \$2000. There were 4 major OES calls, including the Station Fire, which totaled about 2,700 man hours. Personnel costs for those responses were just under \$100,000, but the Department received more than \$215,000 in state reimbursement, so revenue from OES was nearly \$120,000. Additionally, the Emergency Medical Service calls generated \$285,000. Total revenue from the department was nearly \$400,000. Additionally, the department received a FEMA grant of \$178,000.

Members of the Department accrued more than 11,000 hours of training in 2009, with more than 7,300 of that being standard training, and 4,200 hours of Academy training (14 shift firefighters undergoing more than 300 hours of Academy training). The average number of training hours per month per firefighter was eighteen. The training undertaken by our Fire Dept. was about a 110% increase from five years ago.

Nearly twenty-five hundred years ago, Euripedes said that you can judge a man by the company he keeps. This timeless axiom holds true today. If the John Crawford supporters who were so quick to disparage the men and women of our fire department are indicative of the kind of company he keeps, I think we'd be better off if he wasn't on our City Council. That's why I will show my support of the Fire Department by voting for Mosca, Moran and Walsh, and I urge all Sierra Madre voters to do the same.

Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community



Community Calls for Chief Search Do Over

By Dean Lee

After a grilling public raked City Manager Michael Beck over the coals for over two hours last week during a community meeting put together by himself, and councilmember Chris Holden, Beck came up with a number of compromises including putting together a second community advisory panel to help him select a new city police chief something local residents were not, exactly, happy with.

The meeting was put together over dissatisfaction in the way Beck was handling the hiring of a new chief. The gathering was held as a joint meeting of two Northwest Pasadena committees, Lincoln Ave Project Area Committee (PAC) and the Fair Oaks Ave PAC.

The community called for Beck to completely start the hiring process over from scratch saying no one from their Northwest



neighborhood was included, including low-income, minority residents or black males. Beck said the search had been narrowed down to three candidates something community members were also less than pleased with.

A number of speakers, point blank, asked Beck had already chosen interim police Chief Chris Vicino? Although Beck said he had "chosen no one," he did say that a "current sitting police chief was among the top

three." A number of people vowed never to accept the process if Vicino was chosen saying that there was "bad blood" between Vicino and their neighborhood. Vicino had been involved in a high profile police altercation with a resident that left him blind.

Members of the two committees again simply asked for the process to start over, saying it was flawed, going so far as to form an ad hoc subcommittee to oversee their request.

The six member subcommittee will start by drafting a letter to the city council asking for a fresh start on the police chief search said Ishmael Trone, Chair of the Fair Oaks PAC. They also plan to address the council in person at their next meeting. Although Holden said, after the meeting, that the city's charter gives Beck the sole decision in hiring the police chief, they can "evaluate his performance." Holden added that the council does not have to except Beck choice for chief although they most likely will.

"In terms of this precise decision, there has to be a feeling amongst the rest of the council that there are some elements of what they have already heard about the process that they have a problem with," Holden said.

Many were also angry that former police Commander Rick Law, a lifelong Northwest resident, was skipped over.

Beck urged that a letter to the council was unnecessary saying that if he did not like, or accepted, anyone as qualified from the top three candidates he could start over, or go back to the original 66 candidate pool of which Law was one.

Police, Related News



The first of four community meetings Interim Chief of Police Christopher Vicino has committed to during the upcoming year had residents Monday night buzzing answers in on a key pad allowing the facilitators, the Western Justice Center, to get instant feedback on what topics should be discussed.

The meeting took place in the Rufus Mead Auditorium at John Muir High School.

About 80 residents participated, organizers said. The topics they choose included gangs, racial profiling and communication and transparency among others.

Vicino said the other three meeting with be held in other locations throughout the city. He expected to have one about every four months he said. He

explained the idea behind the meetings was to engage the community about police issues at a time other than a shooting or similar tragedy. He said information gathered from each meeting would be available on the department's website.

"We want people to know what these smaller groups have identified and I want to be able to tell the community how we are going to work on it," Vicino said. "And to get out there right now."

He added that by all coming together, the community will be able to overcome some of the obstacles now identified.

He said most likely, the next meeting will be held at the Pasadena Armenian Center.

New Villa-Parke Director Introduced

Residents of all ages came out last week to meet and greet Rozanne Adanto, the new director of the Villa-Parke Community Center.

The popular bilingual community center provides services and activities for families, including recreation, programs for youths and senior citizens, music lessons, computer labs, a library, classes in nutrition and English as a

second language, and more. The center is part of the Pasadena Human Services and Recreation Department.

Adanto has more than 25 years of experience working in recreation, human services and community programs. She has previously worked for the cities of Montebello, Baldwin Park, Norwalk and La Puente.

For more information call (626) 744-6530.



Rozanne Adanto

PACCD Trustees Support Measure CC

The Pasadena Area Community College District (PACCD) Board of Trustees voted to support Measure CC, the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Special Parcel Tax, during its March meeting. The board voted 5-2 in favor of Measure

CC.

"We hope benefit will accrue to the PUSD students who transfer to PCC and will be better prepared for college level coursework," said Dr. Hilary Bradbury Huang, PACCD Board President.

Measure CC will help the

PUSD mend a \$23 million budget gap by assessing a \$120 per taxable parcel of property per year for the next five years. The proceeds of the parcel tax will be used to preserve education access and protect academic programs.

Chamber of Commerce Opposes CC

At its February meeting, the Board of Directors of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce voted to formally take a position in opposition to Measure CC, the parcel tax being proposed by the Pasadena Unified School District. Measure CC would impose a \$120 per parcel levy to raise \$7.5 million per year to support operations of the local school district. The Board's vote to oppose was not unanimous, and came after lengthy presentations by supporters and opponents of the measure and intense discussion on the part of the Board.

George Brumder, Ed

Honowitz and John Pappalardo represented the Measure CC supporters and the Pasadena Unified School District at the meeting. Ross Selvidge presented the opposition view.

After hearing discussion from both sides, it was the consensus of the Board that the PUSD has not adequately explained exactly where the money will be spent, what particular programs will be preserved and, more importantly, what sort of oversight will be instituted and how the district will be held accountable for expenditures. The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association is

a professional business organization. Since the earliest days of Pasadena, the Chamber has played a major role in the development of this internationally renowned city. Since 1888, when the organization was founded as the Board of Trade, the Chamber's primary purpose has been the enhancement of both the business climate and the quality of life in Pasadena. The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce currently serves more than 1450 members.

Paul Little
President and Chief
Executive Officer Pasadena
Chamber of Commerce

Rose Bowl Loop Improvements Begin

Work began this week, on the installation of a new, dedicated pedestrian walkway around the Rose Bowl Loop. The 3.3-mile recreational loop is popular with walkers, joggers, skaters, cyclists and others.

The first step in the project will be slurry sealing, which protects and extends the life of street paving. The slurry sealing will be done on several streets around the Rose Bowl Stadium and Brookside Golf Course, including Washington Boulevard, West Drive, Seco Street, Rosemont Avenue, Rose Bowl Drive and Parkview Avenue.

When the slurry sealing is completed, the pedestrian

walkway will be installed. The entire width and length of the 13-foot walkway will be distinguished by tan-colored pavement. Traffic delineators will be placed along the outside of the walkway to help separate walkers from other users and allow for two-way pedestrian travel. The existing pedestrian restriction signs and messages will be removed.

The Rose Bowl Loop project is expected to be completed by mid-May. For more information, including maps and diagrams, visit www.cityofpasadena.net/publicworks/engineering or call (626) 744-4720.

MTA Gold Line Foothill Extension Fully Funded



The Metropolitan Transportation Authority voted last week to fully fund Phase IIA of the Gold Line Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa. The move was based on an October 2009 motion by Supervisor Michael Antonovich, co-authored by San Gabriel Valley MTA director John Fasana and Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas amending the MTA's long-range plan.

"Today's historic vote brings us one step closer to building a regional transportation system and connecting the San Gabriel Valley to Ontario Regional Airport," announced Antonovich in a news release. "This vote transfers \$690 million of Measure R dollars from the MTA to the Gold Line Construction Authority to build 12 miles of light rail from Pasadena to Azusa

through 6 stations in the cities of Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte, Irwindale and Azusa."

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation states this project will create 7,000 jobs and \$1 billion in economic output during the 30 months of construction. It also cements into place the master cooperative agreement between MTA and Gold Line Construction Authority to ensure the project is built to MTA design and safety standards.

"Now with today's agreement, the Construction Authority will be able to accelerate the opening of the extension to Azusa from 2017 to 2014," Antonovich added. "After Claremont, we will work with the County of San Bernardino to explore connecting the line to the Ontario airport."

Local College and MTA Announce Low-Cost Bus Pass



Mayor Bill Bogaard (forth from left) Tuesday joined Pasadena City College officials and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to announce one of the largest, lowest-cost student transit pass programs in the country. Nearly 9,000 full-time students at PCC will now be able to purchase I-Pass transit pass stamps for only

\$30 for the entire semester, a savings for students struggling with spiraling education costs. Metro's I-Pass program enables colleges to subsidize transit passes for their student body with the goal of providing affordable commuting solutions while encouraging public transit use in today's tough economic times. More than 800 transit passes have been sold so far.

Space Photos Chosen By Public

The most powerful camera aboard a NASA spacecraft orbiting Mars has returned the first pictures of locations on the Red Planet suggested by the public.

The High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment, or HiRISE camera, aboard NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter is nicknamed, "the people's camera." Through a program called HiWish that began in January, scientists have received approximately 1,000 suggestions. The first

eight images of areas the public selected are available online at: <http://uahirise.org/releases/hiwish-captions.php>.

NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden said, "To allow the public to aim a camera at a specific site on a distant world is an invaluable teaching tool that can help educate and inspire our youth to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math."

To make a suggestion, visit <http://uahirise.org/hiwish>.

Pet of the Week



Shania, a beautiful, blue and white, four year old cat is looking for a loving home. She can be shy at first but enjoys petting and will surely make a great companion for someone looking for a calm kitty. Shania would be perfect in an apartment or condo that allows pets. Come visit with this lovely girl.

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

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask about A264876 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

Sierra Madre's Disaster Preparedness Project



By April Kelcy

Reprinted with permission from LA First Aid and Safety Examiner

The small community of Sierra Madre is the site of a disaster preparedness demonstration project that has national implications regarding how many individuals prepare for emergencies, and how effectively they prepare.

How do you know if you are adequately prepared? Chances are that if you asked that question of ten neighbors and friends, you'd probably get ten different answers. But some of that may eventually change, given projects like the Sierra Madre Individual Preparedness Project (SMIPP).

An Inspiring Project Leader:

A former award-winning officer of both the Pasadena and Sierra Madre Police Departments, Donna Cayson, has stepped in with an effort to get a baseline assessment of how many people in Sierra Madre are prepared for disasters, and to determine how prepared they really are. This dedicated contributor to public safety is now a Distinguished Fellow at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security, and currently assigned to the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, National Preparedness Directorate.

Shifting the culture of preparedness: Once the baseline survey is done, Cayson's goal is to use a process of community collaboration to motivate individuals and families to increase their preparedness levels, and then to again measure the results. The collaborative approach, involving multiple community organizations and leaders, is similar to one of the goals of the Great ShakeOut projects. Among other things, the ShakeOut projects hope to inspire better preparedness by getting people to talk about what they're doing over the dinner table and with friends and neighbors. In other words, bringing disaster preparedness from out of sight (until something happens), and into common social interactions and patterns of daily life, so that new habits form.

For instance, taking time to get the oil

changed in the car may not be your first choice of things to do on a particular day, but it is an important ongoing habit to avoid costly and unpleasant experiences later. It's the same thing with disaster preparedness, except it might be more likely for you to mention you had just gotten your oil changed, than to mention you had just updated your emergency supplies. But if three out of four of your friends mentioned they had just finished updating their emergency supplies, wouldn't that jog your memory that you needed to do that too?

Community benefits:

In the end, and all too often, the aftermath of disasters is similar to having 5,000 people show up for an event at which only 50 made reservations, and the supplies run out. However, if 90% of the people make "reservations" for the next disaster by getting prepared, versus only 10%, the entire community will be in a much better position to survive when normal supply chains are interrupted for days, or perhaps even weeks. Participate, learn, and talk about it!

If you live in Sierra Madre, you are encouraged to participate in the preparedness survey*. No matter where you live in Southern California, you might want to take a look at the FEMA

publication "Are You Ready?" for more information on general preparedness steps. One of the most important things to do here in Southern California is to greatly increase your supplies of emergency water.

And whatever you do in the next 24 hours, resolve now to talk about preparedness with at least one friend, co-worker, neighbor or family

member. You can help to start the culture shift today!

*Phase 1 of this project consists of measuring the level of individual preparedness among the residents of Sierra Madre. The survey, which is anonymous, takes only a minute to complete. Copies of the survey can be found at City Hall, the Sierra Madre Police Department and the Library. You can also log on to the project's website at <http://site.smipp.org/> to take the survey along with further information about the project and useful preparedness links.

<http://site.smipp.org>

HAVE YOU LOGGED IN YET?

The Sierra Madre Individual Preparedness Project needs to hear from you. Please take a moment to go online and complete the brief questionnaire. We don't have much longer to respond - the deadline is March 31, 2010. If you do not have access to a computer, call City Hall at 626-355-7135 and they will tell you where to get the form.

Let's not wait for a disaster to strike before we start to think about being prepared!

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, March 21st, to Saturday March 27th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 296 calls for service.

Thursday, March 25th:

4:49 PM – Residential Burglary / Assault with a Deadly Weapon, 500 Block North Sunnyside Ave. A resident reported seeing a man throw an object at the neighbors' house, which was followed by screaming. Officers arrived and apprehended a man, who was fleeing the home. Further investigation revealed the suspect smashed a window, entered the home and assaulted the resident. The suspect was arrested for residential burglary and assault with a deadly weapon, and transported to Pasadena Jail for remand.

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, March 21, through Saturday, March 27, the Police Department responded to 860 calls for service of which 116 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, March 21:

Between 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., an auto burglary occurred in the 300 block of South First. Unknown suspect(s) smashed a car window and stole a notebook computer, guitar, and amplifier for a total reported loss of \$1,850.

2. A residential burglary occurred in the 1100 block of Michillinda between 4:40 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Unknown suspect(s) broke a living room window to gain entrance into the house. The suspect(s) then ransacked rooms and stole cash, gold coins, and jewelry.

Monday, March 22:

3. Two vehicle thefts occurred between 6:30 p.m. on March 19 and 8:00 a.m. on March 22. A 1994 white Ford Probe was stolen in the 500 block of Fairview, and a 2006 white Ford Econoline van was stolen in the 11900 block of Goldring.

4. Shortly after 1:30 p.m., a female victim came to the station to report a domestic violence incident that occurred on Saturday, March 20, in the 1000 block of West Huntington. She advised that during an argument, her intoxicated boyfriend struck her numerous times across the face resulting in bruising. An emergency protection order was obtained. On March 23, at 7:20 a.m., officers went to the residence and arrested the 26-year-old male Hispanic for inflicting corporal injury to cohabitant and the emergency protection order was served.

Tuesday, March 23:

5. A victim came to the station around 2:54 a.m. to file an identity theft report. He advised that unknown suspect(s) had acquired his personal information and attempted to open several credit card accounts via the internet and telephone.

6. A residential burglary occurred in the 2800 block of South Baldwin between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Unknown suspect(s) entered the home by unknown means and stole a laptop computer, gaming and computer equipment, and jewelry.

Wednesday, March 24:

7. Around 11:35 a.m., units responded to the 800 block of Murietta in reference to a suicide in progress. A 34-year-old distraught female tried to kill herself by cutting her wrists with razor blades and then threatened to stab herself with scissors. The woman was transported to a hospital for medical treatment and a psychological evaluation.

8. Officers contacted a male driver who was sitting in a vehicle that was parked next to a fire hydrant at Peck and Clark around 2:24 p.m. A record check revealed that the 51-year-old Hispanic had 5 outstanding misdemeanor warrants totaling \$176,000, and he was also found in possession of marijuana. During the time of the arrest, a 27-year-old male Hispanic walked up claiming to be a friend of the arrestee. A record check of this individual indicated that he had four outstanding warrants, so both men were taken into custody.

Thursday, March 25:

9. Around 12:11 p.m., officers found a vehicle with a warrant attached to the license plate, so a traffic stop was initiated at Duarte and Holly. The 38-year-old female Hispanic driver had a suspended/revoked license and a \$30,000 outstanding warrant; a 24-year-old female Hispanic passenger had warrants totaling \$40,000. The women were arrested and booked at City jail.

10. Units were dispatched to Baldwin and Arcadia around 4:28 p.m. regarding a multi-car non-injury traffic collision. A driver failed to yield to oncoming traffic while making a left turn and broadsided a vehicle, causing it to collide into a light pole. The light pole then fell onto another moving vehicle.

Friday, March 26:

11. Around 6:45 a.m., APD officers assisted the Probation Department in a probation compliance check in the 1000 block of Alta Vista. A 24-year-old male Caucasian was found in possession of ammunition, which violated his probation. The subject was taken into custody without incident.

12. Units responded to Residence Inn, 321 East Huntington, around 9:52 a.m. to investigate a defrauding an innkeeper and fraudulent check incident. A male Asian suspect paid for his hotel stay with a \$1,446 fictitious check.

Saturday, March 27:

13. Officers were dispatched to the 1400 block of Loganrita regarding a grand theft that occurred between 2:00 p.m. on March 25 and 4:00 p.m. on March 26. Unknown suspect(s) stole three brand new ceiling fans and two decorative lights from a home that is being renovated.

14. Around 10:10 p.m., a car was observed swerving off the roadway and a traffic stop was conducted at Santa Anita and the 210 Freeway. A female driver was contacted and there was also a seven-year child passenger. Officers detected the strong odor of an alcoholic beverage on the driver's breath and person, and a field sobriety test revealed that she was operating the vehicle while under the influence. The 46-year-old Caucasian was arrested for child cruelty and DUI.

Monrovia Police Blotter

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 593 service events, resulting in 149 investigations. Following are the last week's highlighted issues and events:

Possession for Sale of Marijuana - Suspect Arrested

On March 18 at 12:13 p.m., an officer observed a motorcycle with no license plates and stopped the driver for the violation. A check for licensing and warrants revealed the driver had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. A search, incident to arrest, revealed a large container of marijuana and another container with rolled marijuana cigarettes, as well as an electronic scale. During the booking process, several other warrants totaling over \$100,000 were revealed.

Foothill Special Enforcement Team Activation

On March 19 at 5:45 p.m., the Foothill Special Enforcement Team (FSET) was activated by the San Marino Police Department regarding a subject who stated he was suicidal and had pointed a gun at responding officers while barricading himself in his home. Monrovia FSET personnel responded. Additionally, another Monrovia officer responded to assist with any possible translation, as the suspect and his family spoke Mandarin Chinese. The Pasadena Police Department Special Response Team and patrol officers from the San Gabriel Police Department, as well as several fire agencies also responded. Over the course of five hours, crisis negotiators were able to talk the subject out of the house and into surrendering. He was treated by paramedics and taken to a hospital, as he stated he had taken an overdose of prescription medication.

Grand Theft Auto Recovery

On March 20 at 1:12 a.m., an officer on patrol in the area of Shamrock and Hurstview discovered a vehicle which was reported stolen out of Glendale. The vehicle was a panel truck which contained merchandise. Glendale Police Department was notified and they requested the vehicle be held for fingerprinting.

Driving Under the Influence / Hit and Run Traffic Accident - Suspect Arrested

On March 20 at 1:35 a.m., an officer was dispatched to the area of Huntington and Monterey regarding a hit and run traffic accident. The driver was last seen heading north on Monterey. The officer located the driver and, during the investigation, determined the driver was under the influence of a controlled substance and arrested the driver.

Driving Under the Influence - Suspect Arrested

On March 20 at 2:17 a.m., while officers were at the intersection of Huntington and Monterey investigating the above mentioned traffic accident, they saw a vehicle driving west on Huntington with a flat tire. They noticed the vehicle had possible collision damage. An officer stopped the driver and determined he was driving while under the influence. Officers searched for collision damage in the area, but did not locate

any. The driver was arrested for driving under the influence and the investigation is continuing.

Vandalism

On March 22 at 6:41 a.m., an officer went to an elementary school in the 400 block of West Colorado regarding a call of vandalism. On his arrival, he was shown graffiti on the south end of the main building written in black spray paint. A report was taken and the investigation is continuing.

Mental Evaluation

On March 22 at 7:22 a.m., an officer was in the process of releasing a female subject who was in custody for driving under the influence. During the process, she told the officer she wanted to hurt herself and was contemplating suicide. The female was not released and was taken to a hospital and held for mental evaluation.

Department of Child and Family Services Referral

On March 22 at 1:46 p.m., an officer was on a traffic stop in front of a residence in the 100 block of North Myrtle. While there, he heard what sounded like a family disturbance coming from an open window of an apartment. Assisting officers responded to investigate. When they arrived, they discovered two 11-year-old brothers inside. They had been yelling and playing around. While the officers were inside, they found the location to be extremely dirty, providing poor living conditions for the children. An officer made contact with the mother, who responded to the location. He wrote an incident report and is referring the case to the Department of Child and Family Services and City Code Enforcement.

Driving Under the Influence - Suspect Arrested

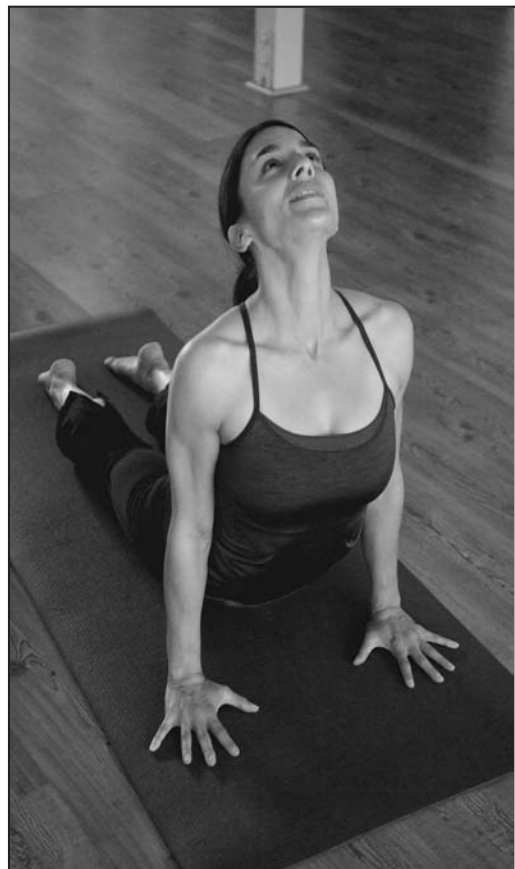
On March 22 at 3:49 p.m., we received a call from a concerned driver who was reporting a possible drunk driver. An officer responded to the area and observed the vehicle coming out of a gas station at Huntington and Monterey and stopped the vehicle. A field sobriety test was conducted and the driver was determined to be driving under the influence. He was arrested and charged.

Grand Theft Auto

On March 22 at 5:49 p.m., an officer went to a business in the 1600 block of South Mountain regarding a stolen vehicle report. The victim parked his vehicle in the morning at 7 a.m. and secured it. He returned to his vehicle shortly before 6 p.m. and his vehicle was gone. The vehicle is a white, 1990 Nissan truck. There were no signs of forced entry. Investigation continuing.

Grand Theft from Person


On March 24 at 7:55 p.m., an officer responded to the 500 Block of West Huntington regarding a female victim who had her purse stolen from her. Officers were in the area quickly and a perimeter was set. A yard to yard search uncovered some of the stolen property but not the victim's wallet or purse. The suspects were not located. Investigation continuing.



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Dinosaurs Roamed Through Sierra Madre Elementary School Last Week

By Students Cole Castillo and Colin Juett Photos by Carolyn Halpern

Editor's Note: The Sierra Madre School second grade class of Carolyn Halpern, recently created an amazing dinosaur museum right in the heart of town!



Maila Thomas had a 'touchable' exhibit complete with hatching dinosaur eggs.

When you go to a museum, you usually can't touch the exhibits, but ours was all about touching. Our second grade class held a dinosaur and fossil museum on March 26th. Over 200 students and adults attended our interactive museum,



left to right - Kacie Ossmen, Aine Baxter, Idris Smith, and Nicole Wallius also worked hard on the Museum Exhibit



Watch Out! Aine Baxter and Emily Rajewski proudly display their volcanoes that were ready to blow!

including all first grade classes. We had a matching game where you could match the dinosaur to its imprint.

New Junior High Facility For Pasadena Christian



L-R State Assembly Member Anthony Portantino, PCS Board Vice-President Steve Wesson, Councilmember Jacquie Robinson, Mayor Bill Bogaard, PCS Board President Robert Yamamoto, Campaign Honorary Co-Chairs Catherine & Bill Flinn, Councilmember Chris Holden and PCS Superintendent Steven Gray. Photographer: Hank Friezer

On February 21, Pasadena Christian School dedicated its new junior high facility which is the second phase of their Campus Master Plan. In attendance at the celebration were city and state officials along with school families and donors. This 3.5 million dollar project gives the students a new 8,500 square-foot facility, including a dedicated art room and seven classrooms which are equipped with state-of-the-art digital technology, including video projection capabilities. Teachers now have a new conference facility and a supply workroom to prepare lessons. Outside a new quad and lunch pavilion gives junior high students their own gathering place apart from the younger children.

Also, as part of this project the administration building was refurbished. The administration building now provides the superintendent, principals and business staff improved offices, as well as conference and meeting rooms and an inviting reception area. The entrance to the school has been reconfigured, adding parking spaces, enhancing access to administration offices, and improving traffic flow for the neighborhood and our parents picking up or dropping off their children at school. The new entrance and facility will convey our commitment to giving our students the best educational and developmental experience possible.

Monrovia Kiwanis Donates \$5,000 to SAFYMCA Youth Alliance

By Mary Barrow

For a kid it can take just one person who believes in you to make a difference in your life. The more than 100 kids and teens involved in Santa Anita Family YMCA's Youth Alliance Program are learning there are lots of people in the community who believe in them, including the Monrovia Kiwanis Club that recently donated \$5,000 to the Youth Alliance Program.

The relationship between the Youth Alliance and the Monrovia Kiwanis Club is one that has been growing over the past year, said Kiwanis President, Ryan Garcia.

"We've gotten to know the kids as they have volunteered and played a key part in several Kiwanis events. The Youth Alliance program is touching many young lives in a very positive way. Our club's donation is an investment in helping the program to grow so that it can impact even more kids and families in our community," said Garcia.

"Our kids were thrilled to have the Kiwanis members come out to share a Friday night dinner with them at the Y, and especially excited to see the oversize check that they brought with them. The Santa Anita Family YMCA is very grateful for the support of the Monrovia Kiwanis Club," said Youth Alliance Coordinator, Ulises Gutierrez. Also in attendance at the dinner and presentation were Monrovia Mayor Mary Ann Lutz and Councilwoman Becky Shevlin.

The SAFYMCA Youth Alliance is a comprehensive personal development program for at-risk middle school and high school students. The program is designed to develop the tools and behavior required for teens to fulfill their dreams. Each developmental plan has three categories: Spiritual, Mental, and Physical and starts with identifying the strengths and interests of the youth. Goals are established and obstacles identified. The youth is then connected with people and resources to help him or her overcome the obstacles and reach their goals. Tutoring, homework help, bible study, counseling, fitness activities, a 24-hour Teen Support Talk Line, leadership development seminars, group discussions, and Friday night family-style dinners are some of the many components of the program, all provided at no cost to the participants. In 2009, the Youth Alliance provided 7,161 tutoring sessions; 676 teen-based rehabilitation sessions, and 13,817 transportations for tutoring classes, Friday night programs at the SAFYMCA and teen-based rehabilitation programs.

The SAFYMCA is located at 501 S. Mountain Ave. in Monrovia. For more information about the SAFYMCA Youth Alliance, call (626) 359-9244 or visit www.safymca.org.



The Monrovia Kiwanis Club presented Santa Anita Family YMCA's Youth Alliance Program with a \$5,000 donation in an oversized check to the excitement of the kids and teens in the program. Standing behind the kids are, from left: Kiwanis Past President, Les Peterson; Youth Alliance Program Coordinator, Ulises Gutierrez; Kiwanis member, Chris Shevlin; Kiwanis President, Ryan Garcia; Kiwanis Vice President, Alfredo Mejia, and Kiwanis member/ SAFYMCA Development Director, Cheryl Reynolds.

PUSD MUSICIANS RAISE THEIR VOICES IN CHORAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Pasadena Unified School District's (PUSD) stellar young musicians will demonstrate their talent at the second of two All District Music Festivals this spring on Wednesday, April 7, at 7 p.m. at the Pasadena High School auditorium. This annual event provides a first-class performance opportunity for student musicians to broaden their experience and prepare them for advanced musical training. Prominent area music professionals will be on hand to serve as guest conductors.

Musicians representing all PUSD elementary, middle and high school campuses will present a Middle and High School String Orchestra, and choral ensembles from all grade levels, including a mass choir at the end. Featured conductors include PUSD instrumental music staff: Gayle Bluemel and David Pitts. Guest conductors include Jeffrey Bernstein, Artistic Director of the Pasadena and Hollywood Master Chorales and assistant conductor of the Pasadena Symphony, and Samvel Chilingarian, Artistic Director and conductor of the Verdugo Youth Orchestra and the VYMA Music Project at Longfellow Elementary, an El Sistema inspired program in Pasadena Unified.

The concert is free to the public.

All-District HS Music Festival
April 7, 2010 at 7:00 pm
Pasadena High School
2925 E. Sierra Madre Bl.,
Ample free parking is available

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

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

Arcadia High School

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

Arroyo Pacific Academy

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

Barnhart School

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

Bethany Christian School

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

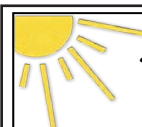
300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln
E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us

Pasadena Unified School District

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Arcadia Recreation and Community Services Spring Kids Retreat!

The Recreation and Community Services Department is offering a Spring Kids Retreat at Baldwin Stocker Elementary School, 422 E. Lemon Ave. This camp is open to elementary school age children in grades 1-5 and provides a safe, supervised, kid friendly retreat during spring vacation. The dates are April 6, 7 and 8, Tuesday - Thursday from 9am-5pm for a cost of \$100. Campers will take a trip to Knott's Berry Farm on Friday, April 9th which is included in the fee. Children may go to Knott's on Friday for a cost of \$54 and not attend the retreat. The camp is filled with fun group activities including crafts, cooking, board games, movies, snacks and more. Supervision is generally on a ratio of one Recreation Leader for each group of 10 children. Groups will be organized by age and grade level. To register go to the city's website at www.ci.arcadia.ca.us under the Recreation and Community Services Department, print out the registration form to fax or mail in or come by our office, 375 Campus Drive. Any questions, please call 626.574.5113. For more questions, please contact the Recreation Department at 626.574.5113.

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.

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Breakfast Items	New Sandwiches
Breakfast Burrito: Eggs, Cheese, Country Potatoes, Onions, Bell Peppers & Bacon Or Sausage in a Warm Tortilla with Fresh Salsa & Medium Coffee or Juice \$6.95	Roast Beef Panini \$6.99 Ham and Honey Panini \$6.99 Italian Panini \$6.99 Veggie Panini \$6.99 Chicken & Pesto Panini \$7.35 Grilled Cheese \$3.95
Breakfast Bagel: Eggs, Cheese, Bacon or Sausage with Tomato on a Fresh Toasted Bagel & Medium Coffee or Juice \$5.95	Served on Fresh Baked Breads: Sour dough or multigrain bread
Breakfast Bowl: Eggs, Cheese, Country Potatoes, Onions, Bell Peppers, Bacon Or Sausage & Medium Coffee or Juice \$6.50	Make it a combo Add a medium drink and herb pasta or potato salad for \$1.95

Mon-Thurs 6:30am-11am & Fri-Sun 6:30-12pm

45 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre Ca, 91024
(626) 355-1596

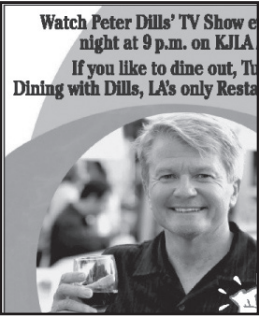
Good Food and Drink

Mountain Views News Saturday, April 3, 2010

7

TABLE FOR TWO THE COUNTER REVISITED

By Peter Dills



Over the last year there are two restaurants which I reviewed that I left scratching my head. It was my initial visit to each, and maybe it is intuition or too many Twilight Zone episodes, but I could not escape a feeling that something more was going on at these restaurants. I hate to admit it, but sometimes I may just concentrate on enjoying my meal too much and only give a cursory once over to the restaurant. Even when I am at the height of awareness it is often necessary to make a second visit to fully appreciate a restaurant. One of the restaurants that has haunted me is Malbec, on Green Street. The other is the topic of today's conversation, The Counter, on Shoppers Lane, in Pasadena. It's has been six months since my last visit to The Counter. So, when my hair designer, Mike, asked if I wanted to go to The Counter for lunch, I accepted with a sharpened pencil in hand.

I enjoyed my first experience at The Counter, but I don't think that after my initial review the owners would be booking a limo for this return trip.

The Counter Restaurant has been open for over six months in Pasadena, and they also have another restaurant in Studio City. Additionally, they fly a flag in Santa Monica, where they boasts of being the most popular "The Counter," with the human exhibit of long lines validating their claim. The Pasadena located is in the Old Indian Restaurant, Raddika's. You will not be confused in the slightest because the layout of The Counter is entirely different. Guess what, you may be surprised, but there really isn't A Counter. Hair designer Mike, bravely offered that the bar was The Counter, but I thought it looked like, you guessed it, ... a bar. We sat at the counter and were treated to some real stellar service.

We started off our meal with the appetizer sampler for (6.95); it comes with French fries, fried

pickles, shoestrings fries and sweet fries. I was impressed with the sweet potato fries on my last visit but they were the only disappointment this meal. It is possible that the fries sat for a couple minutes too long and became dry, it happens. Mike was pleased with them and thought they were good. These fries are cooked in a French fry style. Ok, let's move past the appetizers and on to the main course. The Counter gives you the option of build your own burger, or you can create your own from the menu. I determined to fly the coop on this trip and go with the chicken, a 1/3 lb chicken breast for (\$8.50). I doctored it up with Greek Feta, grilled onions, and honey mustard. It thought it was well prepared. Mike had the 1/3 lb burger for (\$8.50). This is an All-Natural ground beef burger, cover in a rich slice of Tillamook Cheese that warmly ripples over the top. It is completed with a leaf of lettuce, an onion, a pickle and a splendid red radish sauce.

Now, I partook of a less daring adventure at The Counter, but I recommend you try the burger. Grab a sheet and start checking off what you'd like from the menu, begin with step #1 and finish with step #4. A convenient way to engineer your own beautiful burger, it is a little more expensive but you get it your way.

Mike and I give the experience two forks up. It was nice to get another opinion, just to make certain that I have not lost the old character of palate. The restaurants interior is decorated for an art showing, with the iconoclast, Andy Warhol, provoking the cryptic to the sublime. In true Warhol channeling, the music changes hourly, from jazz, pop to hard rock.

The Counter 140 S. Shoppers Ln., Pasadena. www.thecounterburger.com

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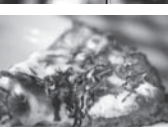
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| 3 | 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Lisa Finnie & Freinds |
| 4 | 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro |
| 6 | 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Quiz Nite Trivia Game |
| 7 | 7:00 PM - 10:30 PM | Murphy's Flaw ~ bluegrass at is best !! |
| 8 | 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Cow Bop featuring Bruce Forman |
| 9 | 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | The Jack Sheldon Quartet |
| 10 | 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Jazz Vocalist Judy Platt |
| 11 | 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro |
| 13 | 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Quiz Nite Trivia Game |
| 14 | 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | the Jennifer Leitham Trio |
| 15 | 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Lightrin Willie & the Poor Boys |
| 16 | 9:00 PM - 11:45 PM | Mercy & the Merketts Dance Party |
| 17 | 8:00 PM - 11:55 PM | Dave Osti & the Dynamites |
| 18 | 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro |
| 20 | 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Quiz Nite Trivia Game |
| 21 | 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | The Song Sirens
a collective of LA's female singer songwriters |
| 22 | 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | the Dave Tull Trio |
| 23 | 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Mercy Powell Jazz Quartet |
| 24 | 8:00 PM - 11:30 PM | Swing Dancing with Flat Top Tom |
| 25 | 8:00 PM - 11:30 PM | Iliana Rose dance to Salsa, Cuban Jazz |
| 26 | 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro |
| 27 | 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Quiz Nite Trivia Game |
| 28 | 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | the Music of Brian Owen jazz Trumpeter |
| 29 | 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Cafe Fuego..."Latin Rhumba"
and "Gypsy Rhumba" with Rodger Espinoza |
| 30 | 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Tremukolocos |



HOWARD Hays As I See It

Elections have consequences. Republicans know this as they see healthcare reform “rammed down our throats” by Democrats using an arcane parliamentary procedure known as “having the most votes”. Readers of this newspaper can attest that votes for our Sierra Madre leaders have consequences, too. Although we’re unlikely to see a candidate rising in opposition to “preserving the small-town character of our community”, decisions today can affect a generation. Seemingly minor offices can have major impacts.

Nowhere has this been shown to be truer than in school board elections in Texas. According to an article in the Jan/Feb issue of Washington Monthly, the current turmoil goes back to the 1960s, when textbooks in the nation’s schools began to suggest that our history was something more than a series of triumphs by white men with Western European ancestry. A group of Texans didn’t like the change, and decided to take advantage of a law allowing citizen input before the Texas Board of Education.

Their influence grew over the next twenty years as textbook publishers increasingly acquiesced. The New Deal was dropped from a timeline of significant events (too “socialist”) and Reagan’s invasion of Grenada became a “rescue”, while publishers engaged in pre-emptive censorship to avoid conflict. In 1984, People For the American Way pointed to three biology textbooks that omitted mention of evolution. Two of those books appeared in classrooms in other states - states that respected science, but didn’t enjoy the clout over publishers as did Texas. In 1995 the Board of Education was embarrassed into action by revelations concerning a health textbook wherein an illustration of a breast self-examination was excised and a picture of a woman carrying a briefcase was replaced by one in a kitchen baking a cake. Henceforth, citizens could not demand censorship.

The Texas Republican Party, Wal-Mart heir John Walton, the Christian Coalition, the Eagle Forum and others realized the potential in being able to indoctrinate students. Resources were pooled to remove moderates from the 15-member Board of Education and stack it with those sharing their vision. One Democratic incumbent, a former Methodist schoolteacher and grandmother of five, was accused of pushing the “radical homosexual agenda”, advocating in-class demonstrations on “how to masturbate and how to get an abortion”. It worked. Once Democrats were removed, sights were set on conservative Republicans who might be too open to alternate views. With the 2006 elections, a controlling majority of ultra-right ideologues was in place, boasting little if any relevant academic credentials (the board chairman was a dentist), but extreme confidence in their convictions. Several are facing primary challenges, but they kept their seats long enough to recently complete the once-every-decade re-writing of textbook standards.

For history, the work of teachers and history professors was discarded so the Board could consult their own “experts”; like the preacher who declares California wildfires and Hurricane Katrina are God’s punishment for our tolerance of gays, and the Oral Roberts University alum who insists the doctrine of separation of church and state is a “myth”. Thomas Jefferson is removed as an Enlightenment figure to be studied, as our nation’s foundation lies not in religious freedom but in Christian zealotry practiced by the likes of John Calvin. Slavery was a remnant of British colonialism that Americans never supported. Martin Luther King Jr. might warrant mention, but civil rights were brought by white Americans - particularly Republicans during Reconstruction. No mention is made of the Tejanos who died beside Davy Crockett at the Alamo. (Cesar Chavez and Thurgood Marshall were to be eliminated entirely, but were brought back due to a massive public uproar). Red-baiting Sen. Joseph


Left Turn / Right Turn

McCarthy (R-Wi) got a bad rap and has since been “vindicated”. The resurgence of conservative groups (Moral Majority, Heritage Foundation, N.R.A.) in the 1980s and 90s is required study, but progressive and minority rights groups are mentioned only as to their adverse “unintended consequences”. The WWII internment of Japanese-Americans was not racist. There’s no continuance of “institutional racism”. Nothing is said of Sen. Edward Kennedy or Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, but Ronald Reagan needs more prominent coverage.

Educators and academics spent two years preparing English standards, which were dismissed by Board members as being too light on grammar and too heavy on reading comprehension and critical thinking. “This critical-thinking stuff is gobbledygook” was the verdict of the team leader (an insurance salesman with no college degree). Standards call for teaching the science of climate change and evolution. They also require serious consideration of the unscientific arguments of climate change deniers and “intelligent design” proponents, those arguing that missing pieces to the puzzle indicates the whole thing’s a hoax. No mention is to be made of the estimated age of the universe being 14 billion years; that would contradict Bible narratives so is unacceptable. Some on the Board are probably true believers. For their supporters, the motives might be less ideological. Other countries may be eating our lunch when it comes to preparing an educated workforce for the 21st century, but there are advantages in perpetuating ignorance. It wouldn’t do to remind students that the mid-20th Century prosperity conservatives are nostalgic for was largely a result of strong unions, enforcement of anti-trust laws and massive public investment in schools, parks and highways. “Critical thinking” skills might pose a threat if students compare “scientists” trotted out by the tobacco companies to debunk research on secondhand smoke to the debunkers of climate change today.

Publishers tailor their product to whomever has the biggest clout as a buyer. Texas had been number two after California, but since we’re out of the game due to budget constraints, Texas now calls the shots for 80% of the nation’s textbook market.

Whenever we don’t feel like investing that much concern in a seemingly insignificant election, we should think of the school board in Texas. For me, I remember my disappointment when the Supreme Court awarded the presidency to George W. Bush, and consoling myself by wondering, “What’s the worst that can happen?”



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Council Meeting Televised:

I hope Channel 3 keeps rerunning the city council meeting of 3-23 so every voter has a chance to see what our council meetings have shamefully come to. I think the mayor showed her true self.

It’s too bad there’s not another council meeting before the election so we could show Councilman Mosca that we’re not all mean-spirited as those speakers were at that meeting.

I believe that Mosca, Moran And Walsh will be fair-minded council members and truly represent the whole community. VOTE April,13.

Hilda, Sierra Madre

Impeach MacGillivray

1. Boorish, rude, impolite and completely unprofessional behavior should not be tolerated in elected officials, especially in one who deems herself “mayor”. Let’s do away with her.

2. MacGillivray’s unseemly temper tantrum in an official City Council meeting is the perfect reason for all Sierra Madreans to vote for Joe Mosca, Josh Moran and Nancy Walsh.

C. Broede, Sierra Madre

Comment:

“Wanted to let you know - I enjoyed your piece in the current issue, and think you made the right move in including the web address for that “tattler” site so readers can check it out for themselves. I’m reminded of the old saying, “Tis better to be silent and thought of as a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.””

Sierra Madre Resident

This Is A Democracy

Thank you so much for your article and Opinion, I could not have said it any better. I hope that this sad situation serves as a wake up call to our community to focus on what we’re all about here. This is a democracy, not a dictatorship. Lets love more and judge less.

Michael Sizer, Sierra Madre

Another Point of View City Council Mtg. 3/23/10

I just read the letters admonishing certain City Council members for bad behavior. I think all of you need to take a second look and see who the real culprit is in the scenario that took place on Tuesday, March 23rd.

As Mayor, Mary Ann MacGillivray had every right to tell Councilman Mosca to be quiet and not interrupt citizens who wish to express their opinions during Community Communications. That is what that time slot is for Councilman Mosca - and as a City Councilman, you should know better. You certainly have plenty of time to speak your piece - so let the citizens of this town do the same. You need to apologize.

Respectfully, Carroll Brown

Subject: Mosca isn’t good for Sierra Madre

I have always enjoyed your articles, especially during the Measure V campaign.

I have lived in Sierra Madre for 14 years and love this town. I wanted to write to you quickly in order to say that it’s great that you are supportive of your candidate, but your statement about Mosca’s broken campaign promises coming from hysterical sources (etc.) are mostly untrue.

I originally voted for Mosca. But that was because he told us personally, during a household visit during his campaign, that he would not support big development in town, he would support efforts in the canyon where we live, he would not support plans that would turn Sierra Madre into an ‘Arcadia’ type of town, as well as more promises that don’t need to be listed in this note. Joe did actually flip on about 80 percent of the promises that we know that he made. But all politicians have a quest for power, so I guess I’m not that surprised.

This works well for those who don’t care about Joe’s various turnarounds, the types that were for Measure V and/or were part of the ‘dirt’ campaign (what a silly group).

Voting for Mosca is not voting for Sierra Madre, which is even more true now that he is sponsored by a national party.

In addition, I’m EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED in the way that the Mayor treated him the other

GREG Welborn Easter, God’s Imprimatur On The Story



This weekend we celebrate the passion, death and the resurrection of Jesus, but we can’t possibly comprehend the meaning of that relatively brief chain of events without putting it into the proper context of the longer, fuller chain of events which preceded and followed Jesus’ divine intervention in the story of human history. To celebrate Easter is to celebrate Passover, which inexorably leads us to celebrate God’s love for all peoples who inhabit this earth.

Let us start at the beginning. There is creation of that which we all know as the population of earth, the plants, animals and humans which inhabit our orbiting sphere. Whether it was directly by the hand of God over 7 days that each was made, or by the logical extension of forces over seven-fold epochs of millions of years put in place by the hand of God, we arrived at an early stage of recorded human history with a people called the Jews, who acknowledged, worshipped and sought to follow the one true God of heaven and earth.

These Jews were not always successful in faithfully living out their mandate. While at one point they were free to worship God and served as a beacon to point others toward that God, standing at the breach steadfast against immorality and evil, they faltered and found themselves the captives and victims of the Egyptians whose despotism and immorality were legion. For 400 years, the Jews barely survived their captivity.

Their faith was thus tempted beyond our most profound abilities to comprehend. 400 years of captivity is not something the average American or westerner can comprehend. It is the stuff of fairy tales, and yet it was real historically and certainly was real as a lifestyle to the Jews. Then God intervened, raised up a leader in the person of Moses and rescued His people from evil. God sent Pharaoh ample warnings, but all was to no avail. 9 plagues were not enough to temper ego and pride. So the 10th plague – the taking of every male child in all of Egypt except for those dwelling in the houses of the Jews – convinced Pharaoh to release the Jews. The celebration of Passover is the celebration of the spirit of death passing over, and leaving untouched, each house whose doorway was marked by the blood of the most perfect lamb that could be found because those people had faith that in God’s promise.

God redeemed His people, but in setting them free again He also reaffirmed His charge to them to lead the world toward Him, to speak of and live out His morality, to share rather than horde the blessing of living forever more in relationship with God, not just for a human lifetime, but for eternity. Humans, said God repeatedly, possessed an immortal soul destined to exist forever – hopefully consecrated to and in relationship with God.

Whether the Jews did all they could in this regard is an argument I will leave to theologians. But the result was that human kind still failed to attain what God offered them. Yes, there were heartfelt sacrifices to God and honest attempts to cleanse the sins of living in the real world, but sin still left its stain and claim on individual lives. The quality of the sacrifices was just not enough to match the depths of the sins.

So, God spoke His final word into this story. He offered to pay the final price, to sacrifice sufficiently that all sin could be dispatched. He didn’t wait for an answer; He didn’t negotiate the details of what price would be paid. God offered and gave His only begotten son – a man in form and substance, but God in essence of his reality. Jesus deserved no punishment, yet he suffered mightily at the hands of evil. God raised up a sacrificial lamb and then allowed his life to be taken in the manner of the cruelest, most inhumane, method of execution ever created by man so that sin – all sin past, present and future – could be cleansed. And then Jesus conquered death through his resurrection.

There were disciples who related the story of Jesus’ miracles and his parables, his stories and windows into the very heart of God, even defending their preachings to the point of their own deaths. The power of Jesus’ sacrifice was made all the more real to us mere mortals by the fact that the disciples would not repudiate

them to save their own lives. So powerful, so honest, so real was the intervention of Jesus that the story of humankind was altered.

Where there was hate, He offered love; where there was revenge He offered forgiveness; where there was paralyzing guilt, He offered rejuvenation. We need only consider what human history would have been without Christ’s intervention and the works of faith that have been performed by His followers over the millennia. Human history and its present practice in many parts of the world is replete with disdain and contempt for human life. Newborns and the elderly were quickly dispatched when no usefulness was perceived. Christ spoke of the value of human life because it was created in the image of and bore the holiness of God. The Judeo-Christian norm today condemns the abandonment of newborns and the dereliction of the elderly.

Human nature has also not been kind to the role of women in society. Where earlier societies gave not a thought or nod to the inherent value of women, the followers of Christ taught and practiced the dignity of women. It has been a long hard struggle to make this moral command a civil right that we observe and protect, but it was the teachings of Christ that elevated women to equal status. In India, China, Rome and Greece, women were nothing but property. In many places, women were burned along with the bodies of their deceased husbands lest they become a burden on the family or community. It is the greatest irony that modern feminism does not pay tribute to the Christian principles which undergird its moral credibility.

Today, we live in a world filled with the once unimaginable gadgets and blessings of scientific pursuit. But discoveries and inventions were far from a guarantee. Before Christians developed, as an extension of their understanding of God’s nature, the theory that the universe was understandable because God was rational, very little scientific investigation or exploration was conducted. Many thought that “the gods” were capricious. In such a view, there is little merit to trying to discern why things are because any knowledge would be invalidated by the whims of such gods at any moment. Only if God is rational and immutable would it make sense to believe that there were rules to how the universe and this planet functioned. We owe the development of penicillin and thousands of other wonder drugs to the teachings of Christ.

There are countless other areas and examples of how God’s intervention into the human story has benefited us all immensely and thus ample reasons for us to celebrate wonderfully that gift on Easter. But let us turn to the future of that story. What does it mean for those of us who live in the only country to claim the honor of being a Judeo-Christian nation? There are several countries, of course, that would – or have – claimed to be Christian. There is one country that claims to be Jewish. There is none that claims both honors, and thus both responsibilities.

Over Easter weekend, may we all realize that with the honor of being the heirs of God’s intervention into human history comes the responsibility and obligation to acknowledge it and act as God would have us act. We have been cleansed and redeemed for a purpose. We have not been saved to be complacent or sanctimonious, selfish or oblivious. We have been saved in order to be used by God to further save those who do not yet know of God’s love and/or who suffer as victims of evil. Evil has not been vanquished, nor is it likely to be banished in our lifetime. But it can be forced into retreat. Edmund Burke said all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. Let us rejoice this Easter in our heritage and rededicate ourselves to stand steadfast against all that is wrong in this world.

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.

night at the meeting. Just because I disagree with Mosca’s actions and plans, doesn’t mean I agree with people treating him that way. He’s an adult, not a child. I have certainly reconsidered my support for the Mayor’s council choices due to that behavior, but I also know that I won’t vote for Mosca again. The fact that people are bringing up hate and bigotry are just easy weapons to slander the other side...which is sad. I certainly don’t think that way...and I personally don’t know anybody who does.

What I DO know is that I am on the side of keeping Sierra Madre the same wonderful town that it is. Mosca should be climbing his political ladder elsewhere.

Derek Sample, Sierra Madre

To the Editor:

I have read the accounts in both local papers of the most recent Sierra Madre Council Meeting and I am appalled. I always thought that one of the duties of a Mayor was to preside at meetings with an even hand to the end of conducting the public busine

About four people took advantage of the public comment period to lambast Councilmember and Candidate for Reelection Mosca. One spoke three to five times the recognized time limit.

Her Honor Mayor MacGillivray refused to enforce the time limits and when Mosca asked for an opportunity to respond she threatened to declare him out of order and have him removed from the meeting saying “You have to sit there and take it” and “I don’t need input from the City Attorney; this is my meeting and I’m the Mayor”.

Her Honor has been actively supporting candidates for Council other than Mosca.

If candidates supported by Her Honor are elected we can look forward to years of the Council’s being used for political attacks and divisiveness rather than uniting to focus on the best interests of the citizenry.

Eric Olson, Sierra Madre

I’d Be Upset Too

As to my take on what transpired? The Mayor has to walk a fine line between allowing people their right to free speech, and ensuring that meetings don’t get out of hand due to personal attacks. It’s

a difficult task, and in this case, I think only one person really crossed that line. And I think she REALLY crossed that line. I think Mr. Mosca should have yielded the floor when asked to do so, and the Mayor was right to gavel him down and warn him that he might be removed if he didn’t respond to her requests for order. That said, I think that if I were Mr. Mosca, I’d have done the same thing he did, as I think the Mayor should have been more pro-active in limiting that speaker’s attack, and I think she also should have allowed Mosca to speak with the City Attorney to determine if he had the right to respond, even though Public Comment is generally a one way conversation. If I felt I had a legal right to respond to someone I felt was personally attacking me verbally, and that right was being taken from me, I’d have been vocal about it to.

Bill Coburn, Sierra Madre

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter after viewing the last Tuesday night Council Meeting. It is evident from this meeting that our current Mayor harbors and absolute disregard for procedure and is not interested in putting forward the best interests of the City of Sierra Madre, but rather hew own political grandstanding. Her undeniable disdain for those who disagree or take exception with her positions, both civically and personally was apparent. Her actions demonstrated exactly who she is. When at least four members of the public insulted and confronted Councilman Joe Mosca during public comment, MacGillivray made no attempt to stop these personal attacks even after they had exceeded the recommended time frame. To make a statement against a fellow council member of “You have to sit there and take it”. Is reprehensible. Then to threaten Joe at one point to have him “taken away” because he asked for a ruling from our City Attorney, illustrates one of the many things she has done to contribute to the division and discord that is felt throughout the city and the council. I am ashamed and embarrassed to say she is Mayor of my town, let alone a council member.

School yard bully best describes what occurred and her endorsement of the three candidates she favors would only be more of the same.
Bob and Rosemary Burnett, Sierra Madre

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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.

HAIL Hamilton COFFEE WITH JOE MOSCA



Three weekends ago I had the opportunity to interview Joe Mosca about his campaign for reelection to the city council. We met for coffee at one of the local eateries.

Our having coffee was a giant step at reconciliation. Joe and I have long been on opposite sides on a variety of issues, most notably his opposition to Measure V

and his refusal to submit the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP) to a public vote. I was also actively involved in the failed attempt to recall him in 2007. But time has softened my opinion of Joe. I've had four years to observe him on the council and gauge his performance.

Joe is an engaging, enthusiastic speaker. He has a thorough understanding of the challenges facing Sierra Madre, and is optimistic about the future prospects of our city. He says that if he is elected, he will work together with the other city council members to overcome these challenges. He says he will also work hard to heal the animosity and divisiveness in our community,

Our conversations covered a broad range of topics. We talked about his opposition to Measure V and his 2006 vote against submitting the DSP to residents to decide. He says he now supports Measure V and that he opposed a public vote on the DSP because it was still in draft form and not complete. I also asked him about the attempted recall. He said, "It was a real learning experience for me and very humbling."

Joe talked a lot about his many accomplishments on the council. He didn't brag, but he obviously takes pride in his record. He rattled off his achievements so rapidly I could barely keep up, pausing only briefly to elaborate.

Fiscal Responsibility... Public Safety... Local Preservation... Eminent Domain... Water Conservation... Hillside Management Zone... Public Transportation... Regional Organizations... Lobbying Efforts...

"Whoa!" I said. "You're overwhelming me. What I'm really interested in are your plans if you get reelected?"

Joe thought for a moment, and said: "In terms of the next four years, I would like to continue to build upon our successes in the area of public safety. Public safety - the fire department and the police department - need our continued focus. We've made great strides, but there much more

work to do.

"The budget will also be a focus of mine. Again, I feel we've done a great job at reducing expenses and bringing in new revenue. The next four years will bring lots of new challenges for us in the budget area. Our revenues are flat. It will not keep up with inflation. Plus, the cost of our employees' pension and healthcare is rising very quickly and beyond our current abilities. We also have a lot of deferred maintenance issues to look at, such as the roads. The state will continue to take money away and pass unfunded mandates upon us.

"We need to work with our regional partners to keep Sacramento at bay. We need to look at new ways of raising revenues, such as encourage the growth in the sales taxes - of course, without losing the small town quality that we have here. We need to continue to lobby the state, county and federal government for more grant monies.

"I will also continue to focus on preservation and conservation. I would like to form a closer partner with the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society to ensure that we are doing our best to preserve the historical properties in town. We need to lift the ban on Mills Act. We tried to do this about a year ago, but Don, Maryann, and Kurt voted in down.

"We need to get going with the Green Committee and the Water Conservation Committee to look at ways to reduce our energy and water consumption. I would like to take Sierra Madre off the grid.

"Anyway, I will focus on these areas in the next four years."

I've now had three weeks to reflect about what Joe told me. One thing that sticks in my mind is his courage to advocate unpopular ideas. For example, he told me that the city should float a bond to pay for repaving all the streets that need repair. Not a popular idea but certainly a responsible, one considering the cost of repairs will become exponentially more expensive if postponed.

I believe Joe is honest and someone I can trust. I believe he will work hard for the good of the whole community. Most of all, I believe Joe possesses the requisite qualities necessary for him to perform his duties with distinction. In short, I believe Joe has been an effective council member, and should serve another term on the city council. Sierra Madre needs Joe. **VOTE FOR JOE MOSCA APRIL 13.**



STUART TOLCHIN CLASS

I don't usually have much interest in horseracing, but I noticed in the morning paper that a claiming horse called Caracortado is one of the favorites for this weekend's Santa Anita Derby. A claiming horse is one who is considered to be of little value, even by

its owner, and usually is unwilling to compete against horses of a higher category. It is as if these horses have a vision of themselves which governs their behavior and determines the scope of their lives.

I believe that human beings similarly have a kind of overall vision of themselves which has a great deal to do with the way their lives are lived. For many people the most important thing is "winning". Winning what I don't know, but these individuals approach life on a pass-fail basis. Whatever will be of benefit to them is good and there is no other good. This, I believe, is a kind of corporate mentality. Corporations are created to benefit their stockholders and have no other purpose. We all know that contrary to corporation's public pronouncements, corporations do not exist for the benefit of the public but are single-mindedly devoted only to their own profits.

Individual human beings have different decisions to make. How should we live our lives? Suppose we find a wallet someplace that contains a great deal of money. Do we keep the money? For many people I guess the decision is made by our affiliation to a group. What is the Christian response to such a situation? For other people it is only a question of whether or not one might get caught doing something wrong. If you can get away with it then do it; perhaps it's a gift from God.

I am attempting to avoid making any judgments here. Perhaps caveat emptor, let the Buyer beware, is simply the way businesses must be run. Imagine you're selling a used car and you know there are certain problems with the car, is it your responsibility to make a prospective buyer aware of these defects? Today there are certain disclosure laws that impact upon the sale

of vehicles or real property. Is the answer to the question of how to behave simply governed by laws? Believe me, laws can be circumvented; often that is the service expensive lawyers provide. Somehow this reminds me of my own experience during the Viet Nam war when I was a draft-counselor. After a while, it became apparent to me that anyone who wanted to avoid the draft could do so by consulting lawyers and following their advice. The problem was that mainly college-educated white kids were the ones taking the trouble to go and see lawyers. From my point of view, the war was fought by less-educated, less-affluent, non-White young men who simply did what they were told to do. This realization left a bad taste in my mouth forty years ago and the bad taste remains. Yes, I did manage to avoid the draft myself.

For years I tried to govern my actions according to the law of karma. I took this to mean that there existed in the cosmos some overarching principle of fairness and accountability. It was something like the golden rule with a paycheck. Do unto others as you would have them do onto you AND you will inevitably receive benefits from your good actions. Well, over the years I have seen too many bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people so that it is simply no longer possible for me to believe in karmic laws operating fairly in this life. Adios law of karma.

So, how do you and I govern our lives in this moral void? A few days ago my son underwent glaucoma surgery and I brought him to the doctor the next day. About ten people were seated wearing eye patches as a result of their surgery. One sixtyish Asian woman, like my son, had very limited vision in her non-operated upon eye and was having a hard time. She was there with no one assisting her and my son asked if she was alone. "Dropped off", she said, "Scared!" My son, thirty years her junior, extended his hand toward her and she saw it and they held hands for awhile. That is how I want to live my life. Aware, alive, sharing and attached to others with no guarantees beyond the moment. I think it is the best way to be.



RICH Johnson

In this hyper-charged political environment I think it would be a public service to provide a primer on effective arguing. This, of course, would be of service in our national debate, state debate, and without argument (pardon the pun) the local Sierra Madre debate. Sierra Madre is as terrific a city as any. People who pass through our little burg dream about living here. And for good reason. After all, we have no

stop signals. At first blush people don't see that nestled in the beautiful foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains lies a Shangri La with a Hatfield-McCoy underbelly to it. Stay here for a while and it will surface.

But I divert. Simple rules regarding the art of arguing would do us well. For example, isn't arguing just a form of discussion? Nope. A discussion is a two-way street where the discussers are looking for mutual understanding and common ground. Hah! An arguer could care less about what the other side has to say. Arguing is all about gaining supremacy over the other person. A discussion attempts to arrive at logical conclusions based on available date. The arguer strives to belittle its opponent. Discussion is an exchange of knowledge; argument an exchange of ignorance.

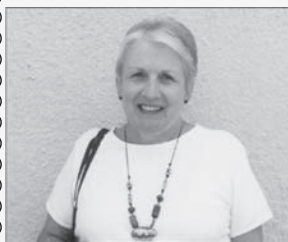
It is very important to avoid, at all costs, permitting the argument to denigrate into a discussion. Conversely, turning a discussion into an argument is a great idea. Use plenty of misdirection. Before long, your opponent will throw his or her hands up and walk off. Victory! Instead of reinforcing an argument, raise your voice. Making noise is a terrific alternative to making sense. Nothing is as frustrating as arguing with someone who knows what they are talking about. Ever happened to you?

The arguer's hero is the pre-Socratic Greek philosopher Protagoras (490-420 B.C.) He was given credit for being the first to leave facts out of consideration and fasten his arguments on words and repartee. He was honored with a crater on the moon being named after him. It might be on the dark side. I don't know. Maybe that's how Jackie Gleason came up with his signature line, "...to the moon Alice."

Mark Twain told us to, "Get your facts straight first and then you can distort them as much as you please." Finally, a technique offered up by the Roman philosopher Cicero (106 - 43 B.C.): "When you have no basis for an argument, abuse the plaintiff." Those of us familiar with our local blog community have certainly seen this technique in practice.

Please remember to vote.

PAT Birdsall BIRD'S EYE VIEW



Who's Running the Asylum?

She's Back! Pat Birdsall, a regular contributor for more than two years, has recently had her feathers ruffled again.

The last time I was this incensed about the behavior of a public official was two years ago when City Clerk Shollenberger's unnecessarily deplorable campaign behavior was the impetus for "Ruffled Feathers," my column in the April 8, 2009 edition of the MountainViews-Observer (go to: http://mtnviewsnews.com/old/mvobs/v02/MVObs_2008_04_13.pdf).

I rarely watch the Sierra Madre City Council meetings these days. In the ten or more years that I have attended and/or watched them, there has always been a certain amount of divisiveness of course, but since the current regime has been in place the climate is one of rudeness, contempt and vindictiveness. Tedious to watch at best. One would think that Mayor MacGillivray would put a stop to that behavior, or at least moderate it; instead, she oft times not only instigates it but then fans the flames.

On Wednesday, March 24, someone suggested I tune in Channel 3 to catch a re-run of the previous night's council meeting. Whoa! Instead of a council meeting, I witnessed the near evisceration of Councilman and candidate for re-election, Joe Mosca. A television first I'm sure.

After the Consent Calendar was read, Mayor MacGillivray decided to start the Community Communications portion of the meeting. I'm sure judging by the disappointed look on her face that she wasn't prepared for Council candidate Nancy Walsh to be the first one out of the gate. Mrs. Walsh talked about City business...how refreshing. She mentioned the importance of the Emergency Response Plan Survey and why filling out the 2010 Census form is important for Sierra Madre.

With the "usual suspects" at the ready in the audience, it was time for MacGillivray to let the games begin! First up with inappropriate campaign rhetoric was the always ineffectual Lee Cline, who managed to garble everything as usual except for the three candidates' names for whom he is voting. On cue and immediately following Cline, was Teryl Willis who began the anti-Mosca rant/evisceration. She is normally a kindly soul, and I do think that she truly believes the words that come out of her mouth. She has a soft way of speaking that probably throws her victim off, making the dagger easier to insert in the jugular vein but no less painful. Following Ms. Willis I believe was Barbara Lee who not only shows up at every meeting but feels compelled to give her opinion on *everything*. This is done in between audible sighing and breast heaving, like everyone is waiting with baited breath to hear what she says...they're NOT. Somewhere in the mix was Paul Hovesepian who got the momentum of the politicking pack out of kilter... ever so briefly. Last but not least, the brilliant albeit at times misguided, Shirley Moore delivered the final step of the evisceration. Miss Moore had evidentially requested "Angus Minutes" because she went on and on and on some more without being stopped by our mayor. Surprise, surprise... Maybe MacGillivray got her fingers caught in the puppet strings and couldn't get to her microphone switch in time. It's hard to keep all of the puppets going at once, you know.

Mr. Mosca had the audacity to actually try to defend himself. Silly boy! He calmly said that he wanted to respond. But, that wasn't going to happen. With gavel at the ready, as if scripted... BANG, BANG, BANG! "Out of order, Mr. Mosca!" The tongue lashing went on and on, with Mosca requesting to speak to the City Attorney. Big mistake...with her face absolutely ashen, Mac Gillivray screeched, "I don't need input from the City Attorney! This is *my* meeting and *I'm* the Mayor!" End of conversation...

Then, as if flicking a switch in her brain, she went on quite calmly to the next speaker. At the podium was none other than Sierra Madre's own Academy Award contender, Fay Angus who is, don't kid yourself, the true leader of the pack. I had suggested a couple of years ago that another chair be added to the Council table for Mrs. Angus. Unfortunately, it would have to be a throne so the idea fizzled. But, I digress...Mrs. Angus blasted Mr. Mosca for his rudeness which, if anyone cares, she doesn't abide. Then she asked MacGillivray if a certain item was on the agenda. When told it was not, the Mayor then asked if she wanted it put on the next agenda. Angus said, "Yes." "Okay," said MacGillivray. (Maybe there is room for that throne after all.)

After the blood bath was over, I had such mixed feelings... Anger, embarrassment for our city and a true feeling that indeed the inmates are running the asylum. I decided that I didn't have the stomach to watch the meeting itself so turned the television off. For some reason I had the greatest desire to read a book. It was a toss-up between Hitler's Mein Kampf, or "Memories of a Dominatrix" the unabridged version of course.



SUSAN HENDERSON

Some Things Never Change

As a parent, I always looked forward to the days when my children would change their ways. Every time I was exasperated with the lack of order in my sons' rooms, (my daughter was always neat), I just kept saying, when they grow up, things will change. In fact, my father used to tell me the same thing regarding how quickly I would wear out a

pair of shoes. Every time Mom told him I needed new shoes he would say, "I can't wait until you grow up and start buying your own shoes. Then you won't wear them out as fast." So change in unacceptable behavior is something we have come to expect with age and/or maturity.

That, however, does not seem to be the case in Sierra Madre, especially at election time. I was looking at an article I wrote in 2008 shortly after the election. Here is an excerpt:

Whew - I sure just went through an awful lot of bashing not to have been a candidate. With that kind of treatment for just publishing a newspaper and having an independent thought, I would hate to think what life would be like if I actually decided to run for office!

But moving on, there is a lot of good news in Sierra Madre, mostly that this election is almost over..... The bad news for the city is that the record books will only show posterity what the outcome was and not how we got there. It will not reflect any of the absolutely nefarious behavior that too many residents engaged in just to try and silence the voice of anyone who disagreed with them.future generations need to learn about it and avoid repeating this history, at all costs.

Even though Sierra Madre is a world away from Los Angeles, it is still in America. Freedom of Speech is still a valued right. It is not a privilege. It is a God given right and those who feel they can control another's thoughts, deeds and actions, need to learn that. When you dishonor that right, you only help perpetuate the myth that the people of Sierra Madre are crazy.

There is a great deal of pity I feel for those who walk around mad at the world, full of conspiracy theories, lacking trust in anyone who isn't just like them. Life is too short and too precious for that. It would be just wonderful if they would learn how to be a positive force, even when disagreeing with others. Your behavior just gives this town an undeserved bad reputation."

It is too bad that the same applies to this year's election. Some people have not learned a thing from their mistakes. Bad behavior does not change a thing. We must learn to respect and appreciate each other's differences. Instead, we seem to get worse each election cycle.

You will see in this edition numerous letters to the editor. For your information, although the majority of them seem to be of the same persuasion, these are the letters that were authorized to print. So if you notice what appears to be a bias, it isn't.

By the way, in the last council election, the newspaper was stolen from the racks. If you notice a rack is empty or you need extra copies, please call 626-355-2737 and we will deliver one to you. If you notice anyone vandalizing, or suspicious activity near the racks, please call the Sierra Madre Police Dept. 626-355-1414.

Looking Up Venus and Mercury Pair Up in Twilight



For the next week, the two closest planets to the Sun will shine together low in the twilight after sundown. Anyone can see them; they'll form an eye-catching pair. You'll just need a clear sky and an open view toward the west, about 30 to 60 minutes after sunset.

"Mercury is pretty hard to spot most of the time, so a lot of people have never recognized it in their lives," says Alan MacRobert, a senior editor of *Sky & Telescope* magazine. "Now's your chance. This is as good as Mercury gets, especially with Venus marking the way."

Venus is the brighter of the two planets. It is the famed "Evening Star," currently making its way out from behind the glare of the Sun into twilight view.

Look for Mercury almost directly to Venus's right from about April 4th through 10th. (This is for the latitudes of the United States, Canada, and southern Europe.) Their exact orientation will depend a bit on your latitude.

They'll appear closest together on April 3rd and 4th, separated by about the width of two fingers held at arm's length (3 degrees).

The crescent Moon joins these two planets on April 15 and 16. Mercury is just below the Moon on the 15th, and to its lower right on the 16th. The Pleiades star cluster, which



marks the shoulder of Taurus, the Bull, rounds out the view. It stands above the Moon on the 16th.

By April 10th Mercury will be fading rapidly, as its orbit takes it between Earth and the Sun and we're able to see less and less of its sunlit side.

Although Mercury and Venus appear close together, they're not. Venus is currently about 1.5 times farther away. As of April 3rd, Mercury and Venus were 94 million and 146 million miles from Earth, respectively. That means it takes their light 8.4 and 13 minutes to reach us.

Because Mercury is always so close to the Sun, it is a difficult world to study. Most research telescopes can't aim close to the Sun because sunlight would overpower their electronic instruments.

By far the best views of Mercury come from spacecraft. Mariner 10 flew by Mercury three times in the 1970s, and MESSENGER has made three passes of the planet in the last two years. MESSENGER will enter orbit around Mercury next year, providing continuous coverage of the hard-to-study planet.

Three reasons conspire to make Venus shine so much brighter than Mercury in our evening sky, despite its greater distance

from us at present. It is about twice the diameter of Mercury; it is covered with brilliantly reflective white clouds compared to Mercury's dark gray rocks and dust; and Venus is currently showing us more of its sunlit dayside.

"Don't miss this chance to do a little astronomy from your backyard, balcony, or rooftop," says Sky & Telescope associate editor Tony Flanders. "It's a big universe, and planets await."

For more skywatching information and astronomy news, visit [SkyandTelescope.com](http://www.skyandtelescope.com) or pick up *Sky & Telescope* magazine.

Illustrations:

Sky & Telescope is making the three high-quality illustrations available to editors and producers. Go to:

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/about/pressreleases/89145892.html>

Click on each image to get the high-resolution version. Permission is granted for one-time, nonexclusive use in print and broadcast media, as long as credit is given to *Sky & Telescope* magazine. Web publication must include a link to SkyandTelescope.com.

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

Slightly less than half of my life has been lived in what can be defined as the Internet Age or the time when email, cell calls, Twitter and Facebook have become the default communication choices in modern life. That makes me old enough to know a time when things were what might be called different, at least from the perspective of interpersonal communications. In the time before the Internet as we now know it, when relations between two people or two entities went south there was often a small cooling off period before the commencement of official hostilities. The parties involved may have been involved in some sort of ongoing relationship, whether of a personal or professional nature, and this usually necessitated face-to-face dealings and rules of civility that kept things from getting out of hand too quickly. Even in the tensest of confrontations the mere reality of physical proximity had the effect of keeping tongues in check due to the potential of physical altercation when opposing points of view could reach no peaceful consensus. In Business or other Professional settings, heated inquiries or replies most often went through a process of transcription and transmittal and that process contained many opportunities for cooler heads to rein in an answer that may have only served to make a bad situation worse. Beside the fact that a relationship or reputation may have been damaged beyond repair by indelicate behavior by any of the parties involved there was always the sense that a real person was on the other end of the conversation. This description by no means attempts to portray a past where everyone was a Lady or a Gentleman and never was heard a discouraging word but even at its very worst the former times lacked the quality of snark that seems to prevail in most forms of



communications and commentary that the modern times are experiencing. Email communication between persons separated by cubicle walls is sometimes a series of snide salvos with attached distribution lists for maximum effects and often perpetuates the pettiest of office spats. Ditto for Twitter, various chat services and Facebook. The digital world provides plenty of places for people to display behavior that they would never dream of displaying in person. This social phenomenon is but a small example of one of the ways that the tools we use wind up changing us. Man, being a tool-using animal, has always experienced this state of affairs starting with the very first time that Object A was used to effect a change in or to Object B and as a result becoming a different being in the process. In the best circumstances we are changed for the better. We become better. We can do more. We are more. Unfortunately for us, the Age of the Internet has been characterized by our being less civilized people despite having more advanced tools to work with and the distance between a person and their neighbor has grown larger now than at any time in history. There are plenty of examples of Internet media having the effect of bringing people together such as the various social networking media and forums that abound but when two workers side-by-side in an office can no longer hash out their differences face-to-face, we really must come to grips with the very real truth that we have been changed.

WRITING SERVICES

Could you use help in preparing written communications for your business? I have extensive experience in writing and editing business documents including brochures, proposals, newsletters, resumes, customer success stories, press releases, and articles for newspapers and magazines.

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

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

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The Senior By Bruce Lamarche Time For A Family Council?



Do your adult children know what your wishes are for handling your affairs when you:

- Are incapacitated?
- Need to enter a care facility?
- Pass away?

You've probably named one of your children as your executor or personal representative. In addition, that same child (or children) is likely the one who has the medical and durable powers of attorney, the medical directives, and other decision-authorizing documents so they can act on your behalf when circumstances require.

But does this child (or other representative) really know what your want them to do on your behalf? Maybe it's time for a family meeting.

Calling a family meeting is an excellent way to involve all your heirs in the decision-making process, or at least ensuring they understand your wishes and the rationale for them. Most seniors name one child as the executor, and often make this person the one with the powers of attorney and name them a co-trustee for any trusts. But the other children or heirs need to understand what this means and what you want done (or not done).

During the meeting there are several key topics to bring up:

- Your exact wishes for medical care and cessation of care—the so-called DNR or “Do-Not-Resuscitate” parameters being a prime example. Without clear guidance, your family members may get into arguments over what to do and when to do it, and then the medical facility's staff may find their hands tied, no matter what legal documents you have created.
- How you want personal property distributed—many items are not handled in your will.
- What your wishes are for selling items, such as your residence, should you become unable to make your own decisions through incapacity.
- What your plans and wishes are for long-term

care.

- What planning you have done, and where the documents are stored. Documents might include insurance policies (life and long-term care), annuity contracts, wills, trust documents, powers of attorney, bank and investment information, tax records, property deeds, mortgage papers, and other personal and business documents.
- How to access computerized records, safety deposit boxes, and documents stored in locked cabinets or other locations. (Don't forget the passwords.)
- Names and contact information for your financial advisor, attorney, tax advisor, banker, and other professional service providers.
- Think about the following documents and have them prepared by a professional:

Durable Power of Attorney
Healthcare Proxy
Letter to your Survivors (to reiterate the meeting)

Will
Long Term Health Care Insurance
Beneficiary Statements (Life Insurance and 401K's) - Remember to keep them current!

The information you bring out in this family meeting is vital to ensuring your wishes are carried out. Frank discussions can alleviate the concerns and prevent (or at least reduce) misunderstandings between family members. Your executor will thank you, and so will your other heirs. Leave something more than problems to your family.

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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Bruce Lamarche - Walter Clayton

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www.LASeniorMortgage.com

See the “Senior Spot” column weekly!

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Wednesday,
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Sierra Madre Senior
Services Desk at
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SENIOR HAPPENINGS

FYI:

Health Care Reform: Top Questions For Seniors Answered for Healthcare

1. Will I be forced to buy insurance under the new health care bill?

When most people consider the health care reform bill pros and cons, one of the things that they bring up is the fact that people will be forced to buy insurance if they don't already have it. This is only partly true, as current health insurance reform will not force you to purchase insurance right now. If you are not insured through an employer or you have no family health insurance plan, then the health care reform bill may require you to purchase a plan by 2014. This is one of the most important aspects of the health care reform bill summary 2010. You don't have to go out and get insurance right away, as there is a grace period attached.

2. What does the health care bill say for people who can't afford insurance?

One of the biggest concerns has been over what people will do if they don't have the money to go out and buy an expensive health care plan. When you study the health care reform bill pros and cons, you will see that people who are living under the poverty line do not have to go out and purchase insurance by 2014. They are exempt from the rules. Additionally, people that make between 100% and 400% above the poverty line can receive credits to help them pay for the insurance. This is the new health plan's way of making sure that everyone has a means of getting on board, even if they aren't doing well financially.

3. What if I already have health insurance?

This health plan grandfathers in old plans, which is a definite positive for those people who already have an insurance plan. Under the current health plan, you will not have to go out and purchase anything new. Though you will not be able to modify your plan or change things up nearly as easily, you are free to stick with your current level of coverage and your current provider under this health care reform bill. This is one of the single most important things to take from any health care reform bill summary in 2010 that you read.

4. Where does Medicare go?

One of the keys of the health care reform bill summary is to know that Medicare is still going to be alive and kicking. The government made Medicare one of its focuses of healthcare reform this time around. They intend to pay for at least some of the costs of healthcare reform by cleaning up Medicare and making it a more efficient program. A government committee is a part of healthcare reform and will be assigned to cleaning up waste and taking fraud out of the current Medicare system. These savings should help to pay for the program to some extent. What things will the government mandate from insurance providers? One of the keys to the current health reform is that insurers are going to be required to maintain a certain level of care. They will have minimum benefits that are required, which might force some of the premium prices up. The government has not set a ceiling on benefits with this health reform program, so people can still get luxury healthcare plans if they see fit. The key to the health care bill is basically seeing that everyone is protected as much as possible.

5. What about my pre-existing conditions?

No health care reform bill summary in 2010 would be complete without mentioning pre-existing conditions. The health insurance reform plan puts restrictions on how insurers can deal with these conditions. In this health care reform bill summary 2010, we have learned that the new health insurance reform stops insurers from withholding coverage on the basis of pre-existing conditions. Though they can modify their plans and change about pricing options, insurers must still provide coverage to people who currently have illnesses or conditions. *Excerpts from www.todaysseniors.com

NEW Box Meals at the Senior Lunch Café

The senior lunch program is pleased to offer special box meals that can be ordered & taken home. Participants must be 60 years or older, make a reservation 24 hours in advance, come to the Hart Park House to sign & make a \$2 donation and bring an insulated container to carry out the box meal. There is a special box meal menu available at the Hart Park House - for more information or to reserve a meal, please call (626) 355-0256.



MONTHLY EXCURSIONS

Thursday, April 15th - Palm Springs Follies - 8:30 am to 6 pm; \$51 (limited space still available)

Friday, May 14 - LA Central Library Tour & Lunch - 9 am to 3 pm; \$7 for transportation only - lunch on your own.

June TBA - Cheese Factory Tour & Lunch at a Temecula Winery

April & May excursions are open and reservations can be made by filling out a registration form & making payment. For questions, please call the Senior Desk at (626) 355-7394.

Recipe of the Week:

Grilled Pork Tenderloin & Asparagus with Peanut Dipping Sauce

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1/2 cup rice wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons toasted sesame oil
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon peeled/ grated fresh ginger
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon pepper
- 1 pound fresh asparagus, rinsed & snapped
- 1 pound pork tenderloin
- 1/2 cup peanut butter (smooth or crunchy)

DIRECTIONS:

Make the marinade by whisking together the soy sauce, vinegar, sesame oil, honey, ginger, garlic, and lemon pepper in a bowl, and reserve 1/2 cup of the mixture in a separate container.

Place the asparagus in a ziplock bag and pour in 1/4 cup of the marinade from the bowl. Work the bag gently with your fingers to distribute the marinade. Do the same with the pork tenderloin, using a second ziplock bag and the remaining marinade from the bowl. Let the meat and vegetables marinate at room temperature for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare a charcoal fire or heat a gas grill to medium-high, and oil the grates.

Add the peanut butter to the reserved marinade and whisk the mixture until smooth.

Grill the tenderloin for 3 to 4 minutes on each side, rotating it a quarter turn at a time, until the internal temperature registers 145° in the center. Remove the meat from the grill and let it rest for about 5 minutes (the internal temperature will rise to 150°). Meanwhile, grill the asparagus spears for 2 minutes per side.

Slice the pork diagonally into 1- to 2-inch slices. It should be juicy and slightly pink inside. Serve the meat and the asparagus with the peanut dipping sauce. Serves 4.

April Birthdays



Blanca Martinez, Lillian Snyder, Dorothy White, Betsy Abbe, Freda Bernard, Beth Copti, Terry Cummings, Marilyn Diaz, Virginia Elliott, Elma Flores, Julia Gottesman, Betty Jo Gregg, Betty Mackie, Ethelyn Polley, Elizabeth Rasmussen, Anne Schryver,

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 Brandlee. 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.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER MEALS TO OUR HOMEBOUND NEIGHBORS **ONCE A MONTH OR WEEKLY**

Please contact Darlene Traxler at 626.355.6220 or (626) 355-0256.

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

For more information please call (626) 355-5278.

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

Wednesday 3-7pm

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



Chris Bertrand

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

The Jewel of “Oak Hollow”

The owners of this recently listed home, named it “Oak Hollow” for its charming, private setting under a magnificent gnarled oak tree. “We were drawn by the absolute privacy and serenity of this unique location,” they commented. Set on a cul de sac street in Northern Sierra Madre, a few houses from the mountains, the flag lot creates a buffer from life around it. As a street I walk occasionally, I had not even noticed that there was another home down the gated, long driveway.

I get the opportunity to see a lot of homes

In 2003, they engaged Sierra Madre contractor, Don Clauson Construction, to take on an extensive remodel of nearly every space, including the roof and changing out the original windows to high quality Marvin casement windows and sliding doors. he professional decorating and space planning creates an elegant yet comfortable and practical lifestyle with extensive recessed lighting, decorator fixtures and window treatments.

In the kitchen and baths, furniture grade, hard rock maple cabinetry was installed with differing finishes in the various applications. The custom cabinetry includes a cabinet hiding the microwave at just the right eye level, plus slide out drawers in the pantry, a planning desk and a few glass front doors for accents.

The remodeled and reconfigured kitchen



On the family room level, a separate laundry room, bath and bedroom with a separate outside entrance, could be utilized as a separate living space for extended family or other circumstances.

Numerous outdoor spaces allow for a myriad of relaxation and entertaining opportunities with mountain and city light views... The private patio outside the dining room and kitchen is walled with Boston ivy which turns a bright scarlet in Fall. Under the shade of the gnarled Engelmann oak, the view deck atop the garage is the best place to capture miles of views, even a peek of Catalina when weather conditions are right.. The patio accessed from the living room also enjoys the shade and views of this magnificent oak tree. Down the driveway, a mature avocado tree provides

the makings for a long season of homemade guacamole. There's even a separately fenced dog run area for Fido.

Adjacent to the garage is a workshop with stainless steel counters, to accommodate all the toys for the mechanically or carpentry inclined. Both garage and workshop have 220 wiring and are plumbed for compressed air.

576 Sierra Meadow Drive is listed at \$799,950 by Mary Poehler Bernstein of Dilbeck Real Estate. For more information, contact the agent at 626-297-7016, Mary.Bernstein@Dilbeck.com or at www.Dilbeck.com.

Have an interesting home or garden that might be of interest to our readers? Send the information to C.Bertrand@MtnViewsNews.com



in a myriad of styles and price ranges. Rarely does one captivate me as much as this one, especially for the price point, \$799, 950. To my eye, they've done everything right here, with beautiful private spaces for everyone, inside and out, and top quality, well planned upgrades. Nothing is huge here, yet nothing feels crowded either, the separation aided by the split level design.

The home is absolutely pristine, with four bedrooms, two and half fabulously remodeled bathrooms, a separate family room, two fireplaces, plus a two car garage with adjacent workshop. Extensive night lighting gives the whole property a magical quality after the sun sets.

became a stunning focal point for the home, with Thermador and Sub Zero appliances, plus tumbled stone backsplashes complementing slab granite counters and ceramic tile floors. Breakfast bar seating also allows guests to enjoy a beverage while watching the cooks, yet staying out of the preparation fray.

The living and dining rooms enjoy direct access to two outside patios through sliding glass doors, for easy indoor to outdoor entertaining in fair weather, and a fireplace with gas service for cozy evenings. Down a few stairs, the original attached garage was converted by a previous owner into a wonderful family room with a brick wall and wood burning fireplace.

Margit Holakoui
FLORIST

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2228 E Oak Shade Rd.	Bradbury	Gary Lorenzini	\$1,099,000

Tips of the Trade: Real Estate Revealed
by Luther Tsinoglou

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Selling your home in anything other than an active market can seem challenging, but what do you do when yours is only one of many homes in your neighborhood with For Sale signs? Surprisingly, there are actually some advantages to marketing your home in this situation.

More buyers are drawn to neighborhoods where they can preview more homes at once. More buyers means more opportunities for your home to be seen and to attract an offer, so make your listing stand out against your competition.

Price your home aggressively after reviewing the comparable sales figures provided by your real estate representative. Don't give your neighbors the advantage of looking like a bargain compared to your listing - take it yourself and show buyers what a great value you're offering. If you're competing against foreclosure listings, having your home in "move in" condition helps, because foreclosures often need lots of repairs.

With this much activity in the neighborhood, make sure that your home is available for showing on literally a moment's notice. Buyers who come to look at other listings may spot yours and want to see it right away to make comparisons. Be prepared for "impulse" prospects with good housekeeping and an escape plan for unexpected showings.

Finally, don't worry if your neighbor sells first - that just makes for less competition in your market!

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

Prudential California Realty

153 East Highland Avenue, Sierra Madre
Beautiful 2 bedroom / 1 bath on a nice corner lot. Large kitchen, beautifully remodeled with hardwood floors. Move in ready **\$669,000**

19 West Orange Grove, Sierra Madre
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Free public parking on Mariposa.

Luther & Georgina TSINOGLOU

Working on Common Ground

198 N. Lima St. Sierra Madre
FOR SALE * \$675,000

OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, April 4 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.

My mommy
and daddy wish
you and your family
a wonderful
Easter!



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Holy Week & Easter Services

Palm Sunday, March 28th – 8 & 10:15 a.m.

Monday & Tuesday, March 29th & 30th — Mass 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31st

Tenebrae – 7 p.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 1st -- 7 a.m. & 7 p.m.

The Watch at the Altar of Repose begins after the 7 p.m.

Mass and continues until noon on Good Friday.

Easter Sunday, April 4th

Easter Vigil -- 6 a.m.

Easter Brunch – 8 a.m.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt – 8:45 a.m.

Confessions will be heard by appointment. Festival High Mass with Baptisms – 10:15 a.m.

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