

SATURDAY JULY 24, 2010

VOLUME 4 NO. 29

“The Mayor of LA County” Comes To Town

Supervisor Michael Antonovich met with City Council, Department Heads and Residents at a Special Breakfast Meeting on July 21st.

By Susan Henderson



On Wednesday, The Only Place In Town was the place to be. The entire Sierra Madre City Council, City Department Heads, and a few residents had the opportunity to dine and chat with Supervisor Michael Antonovich. This was a special council meeting and was conducted as such, allowing for public comment for items on and off the agenda.

The meeting began with a briefing of all the major Sierra Madre projects for the benefit of the Supervisor, as many of the projects are possible because of support from the county. Department heads, as well as the council members, while giving updates on what is happening in Sierra Madre, also took every opportunity to lobby for funds from the county.

For example, Mayor Mosca, after listening to Public Works Director Bruce Inman's project update, asked the Supervisor if there were opportunities to 'piggy back' on road construction projects occurring nearby such as the ones in Rosemead and Temple City. By so doing, Sierra Madre could maximize its use of road funds because of the cost reduction which would result from the 'piggyback'.

When all the Sierra Madre discussion was over, Antonovich then gave everyone a briefing on the 'state of the county'. Before he began, however, he took the time to congratulate Sierra Madre and the city's Finance Director, Karen Schnaider for the outstanding job of managing the city's finances during a time of so many fiscal challenges.

He expressed his concerns that the State is not talking about the consolidation of agencies in order to help balance the budget. He spoke of his concern that the state's budget would probably not be adopted until October and of great concern to him, is the current proposal circulating in Sacramento for realignment of responsibilities from the state to the cities and counties. He was also extremely concerned about proposals to implement an early release program in the State Prisons, where he said 30-40% would be sent to LA county.

Antonovich is not happy with the rate in which California is losing large corporations. In recent years, he said, more than 100 major corporations and businesses have left the state such as Bank of America which moved to North Carolina, and others moving to states like Arizona, Florida and Nevada. He even noted that California's high personal income tax is driving away too many celebrities.

The county's ability to assist its cities is tied directly to the State's ability to take their share of the responsibility for the county's. And, with the current state of affairs in Sacramento, that worries Antonovich. *[The Governor] "Needs to get legislators to pass the damned budget! The Wheel is Spinning but the Hamster's Dead!"*

Local Organizations Continue Concert In The Park Sponsorships. This week:

**The Sierra Madre Woman's Club Presents
L.A. Lyon (Top 40's Band)
Sunday, July 25th 6-8 p.m.
Memorial Park - Sierra Madre**



Above, L.A. Lyon

Below: Friends of the SM Library



Perfect weather is predicted Sunday's Concert In The Park featuring L.A. Lyon, "the little band that roars" will provide high energy dance music for an event to remember.

Last week, the country western group Grand Junction rocked the stage. The concert was sponsored by the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club and The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library.



Kiwanis also celebrated their 83rd Birthday and shared their "Birthday Cake" with the crowd.

Water Rate Controversy Continues

Council Likely To Reconsider Fee Hike Structure, Implement Public Education Process Before Proceeding

Most members of the Sierra Madre City Council appear to be certain of one thing, the public education process for the proposed water rate fee increase was not adequate.

As citizens await the final numbers, it appears that the council, regardless of the outcome, will reevaluate the process and perhaps start all over again.

When the final tally is certified, if the numbers fall below the 1,848 requirement, the council could vote to proceed with the increase, however, it seems unlikely that they would do so given the number of residents both for the increase and opposed to the increase that want more information.

According to City Manager Elaine Aguilar, city staff did in fact follow the procedures as defined in Prop 218 by mailing notice of the proposed increase to every household. Nevertheless, many did not read and or understand the information that was provided.

In addition, many residents have asked that the city conduct more "Walk and Talk" water tours. The tour that was held a few weeks ago has been praised by all who attended, regardless of their position on the rate increase. "It really opened my eyes as to what it takes to get our water from the mountain to my tap."

Time Is Of The Essence

As indicated by Councilman John Buchanan at the last meeting, the situation "isn't going to get better with age." More than 30% of the city's water mains need replacing and, especially during the next few months with hot weather and greater demand, the strain on the system will put further stress on the system. "We just can't take another two or three years to resolve this problem", said one resident who supports the increase.

The last water rate increase was implemented in July, 2006 and the council was well aware that the increase would not be sufficient to support the water system for very long. In addition, at the time of the last increase, there was, and still is, no way to determine the amount and rate of electrical power increases.

The actual process to revise the city's water rates did not begin under this administration. In fact, it was Former Mayor Kurt Zimmerman who commissioned the \$33,500 consultant that provided the recommendations that lead to the current proposed fee hike. The contract had the unanimous approval Zimmerman, Mary Ann MacGillivray, Don Watts, Joe Mosca and John Buchanan were also on the council.

Final Numbers For Protest Letters Questioned.



Aging pipes such as the one above are just part of the reason city officials are seeking a water rate increase. At least 30% of the city's water pipes and supporting structures are in this condition or worse.

Sierra Madre City Clerk, Nancy Shollenberger made a commitment at the last council meeting to have the final tally available within five days of the public hearing. The hearing was held on July 13, 2010. On July 18th, as promised, Shollenberger released a statement with a new set of figures that have confounded many. When Sierra Madre News Net Publisher Bill Coburn questioned the numbers, Shollenberger said the following, :

"I will check with the volunteers that did the vetting of signatures. I trusted their final report. I have 1959 protest letters."

As Coburn pointed out in his communication to her, the public has been given three different totals for the protest letters. The first statement made during council meeting indicated that there were 1,941 protest letters submitted prior to the end of the public hearing. By law, no other letters can be accepted after that time. In the press release issued on the 18th, Shollenberger indicates that she had 2,049 protest letters. An increase of 68 protests that appear to have been received after the cut-off. However, in the same e-mail issued after the press release, Shollenberger states that she actually has 1,959 protest letters.

At the council meeting, Mayor Mosca directed staff to work with Shollenberger and verify the documents to further check against duplicates and unqualified letters. She was instructed to maintain the original documents at City Hall.

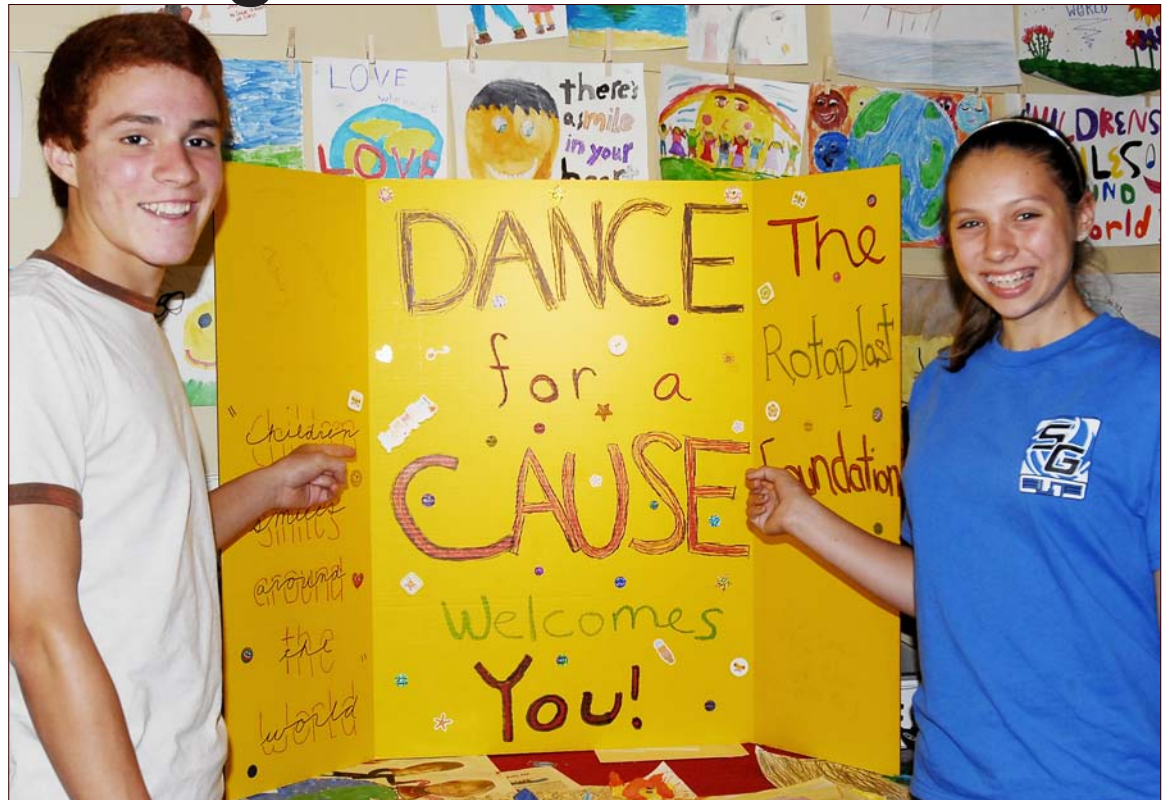
To further exacerbate the growing concern for the integrity of the final count, upon review of the letters by city staff, more than 250 signatures could not be confirmed. In each instance either the person signing the protest was not on the city's list of rate payers or not on the county's list of parcel owners.

Much of the confusion over the Prop 218 process is contained within the bill itself. It suggests that either the rate payer or the parcel owner may protest the fee increase. There is no clarification for parcels with multiple owners or parcels with multiple units. For instance, as one person asked, If a group of people own the parcel, do they each get a vote? Or, another question, if the parcel has multiple units, does the owner get to cast a vote for each water meter on the property? All of these scenarios may be the reason for the large number of unverifiable protests.

Ironically, during the last council meeting a statement was made that 61 protests had been submitted from the 1 Carter property and the City Attorney challenged it because there are only 6 meters on the property and no residents at this time.

At the council meeting on Tuesday, it is hoped that these questions have been resolved and a final, verified total will be released.

Dancing For The Cause



Local teens, William Hurtado and Jennifer Brady (pictured above), helped organize a teen dance held at St. Rita's in Sierra Madre on July 17. Through the efforts of Hurtado, Brady, Stuart Love and Julianne Robi, "Dance for a Cause" was a great success. 131 youth, aged 12-15, enjoyed a great evening of music, with some of the refreshments donated by Jamba Juice. They raised \$707 for the two causes identified this year as beneficiaries of A Taste of Sierra Madre, to be held September 11. Half the funds raised will fund cleft palate surgeries performed through the volunteer Rotoplast Foundation. With each surgery cost at \$500, Hurtado commented in their report to the organizing committee that their fundraising funded 70% of a child's needed surgery. The other half of the funds will benefit the Youth Activity Center in Sierra Madre, funding additional arts programs for children in the surrounding area. For more information about A Taste of Sierra Madre, please visit the event website, www.ATasteofSierraMadre.com or call event chair, Tom Brady at 626-355-3471.

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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

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Tues:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 70s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 70s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 70s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 70s

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Music News

By Sierra Madre Sue Behrens

FRI. 7/23 - MERCY & THE BEETS @ Friday Night Live in Kersting Court, Sierra Madre (Baldwin & Sierra Madre Blvd.) Enjoy live music from 6:30 to 9pm, accompanied by shoppers incentives and a chance to enter drawings when you shop downtown. Visit the Chamber of Commerce booth for all the details. www.SMFridayNightLive.info.

Please remember to call and verify all info. before making plans. Everything is subject to change. This is show biz, after all... Hope to see you out & about, SierraMadreSue sierramadresue@yahoo.com

SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE

Arcadia

The cast is uniformly good...they skip so nimbly through the fascinating maze Stoppard's constructed...[it's] reason enough to go.

- Rebecca Haitcoat, L.A. Weekly

The Sierra Madre Playhouse has begun...the next phase...to become one of the Southland's best places to see theatre. Don't miss Tom Stoppard's Arcadia...the direction and performances are top notch.

- Marla Lewin, Global Village

This production serves Stoppard well...Director Barbara Schofield is pitch-perfect in capturing the heart and soul of the play... Actors in this production beautifully capture the essence of Stoppard's ideas...

- Melinda Schupmann, Backstage

This production shimmers...The Sierra Madre playhouse...is certainly a venue that deserves some scrutiny by theatre aficionados. This production is top caliber and the actors more than do justice to the play.

- Jose Ruiz, Review Plays.com

JUNE 18 ~ JULY 31
Reservations: 626-355-4318
www.SierraMadrePlayhouse.org

Sierra Madre Aquatic Center
Summer Movie Nights

The Community and Personnel Services Department will be offering three FREE movie nights this summer at the Sierra Madre Aquatic Center. These wonderful family events are made possible by generous donations from the Sierra Madre Community Foundation, Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters Association, and the Sierra Madre Civic Club. This is a great opportunity to spend family time at the Sierra Madre Aquatic Center is a safe and fun environment at absolutely no cost!

The summer movie night schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, July 28, 2010-Movie: Surf's Up
Wednesday, August 25, 2010 - Movie: Muppet Treasure Island

All movies at the Sierra Madre Aquatic Center will begin at 8:00pm and will finish at 9:45pm. The Sierra Madre Aquatic Center is located at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Please be sure to arrive early, as maximum capacity may be reached at the Aquatic Center.

For more information on the Sierra Madre Aquatic Center Summer Movie Nights, please contact the Community and Personnel Services Department at 626-355-5278.

BARGAIN BOOK SALE AT SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY August 6th & 7th

"Summertime and the living is easy. Fish are jumpin' And the cotton is high"

"Summertime," the song immortalized in the Gershwins' Porgy and Bess, reminds us that this time of year is for kicking back, and experiencing life as it saunters by at its most leisurely pace.

Books can be as easily enjoyed up in the mountains, down at the beach, or even under that favorite shady tree in the back yard. They require no batteries and need not be near any antenna towers.

Hot weather is projected for August. The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library recommend you stretch out in that shade, inside, and get lost in the pages of

an engrossing book. Wonderful selections and good bargains are available at the August Best Used Book Sale, to be held on Friday 6th August, 3pm to 7pm and Saturday 7th August 10am to 2pm. The sale will be located at the Sierra Madre Public Library.

Our August sale features books on the Art and Craft Movement, Art, and Old Cars. Also featured are Cookbooks, volumes on the Theatre, Literature, and the Civil War. There are a variety of Time Life Sets including: A 15 volume set on The Old West. 18 volumes reminding us of What Life was Like. An amazing 28 volume collection on Home Repair and

Improvement. Not to be left out we do offer up for Teens: The Twilight Series.

Outside tables will be filled with hardback fiction/non fiction for \$1.00 each. Paperbacks at available at 25 cents each (or 5 for \$1.00) and there will be a new selection for children. Browse inside and out to find your best Summer escape.

In these turbulent economic times it's refreshing to know these books are available at great prices. Plus, all proceeds support library programs. Call (626) 355-7186 for information. Stop by early for the best finds. And remember, the library exists to serve the needs of you and your family. We are here for you.

JUNE 26th JULY 31st
& AUGUST 28th

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July 3, July 31, Sept. 18

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Ms. Phyllis Battle
Director, Lady Walquer
Music Director, Vanessa Burch
Announcer, James Janisse

SIERRA MADRE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Sierra Madre City Council encourages citizen participation in its decision-making process through the use of citizen commissions. Currently, there are six citizen commissions established by the Council to advise and assist in dealing with specific problems (presently the Planning Commission has the responsibilities of the Cultural Heritage Commission). These advisory bodies are able to study a variety of issues and problems in detail. After gathering all pertinent information, hearing arguments, and weighing values, they recommend to the Council what they consider the best action to take. In certain situations, commissions are empowered to make specific decisions, subject to appeal to the Council. Public notice on all commissions are prepared in compliance of the Maddy Act.

Should you wish to apply to be a commissioner, applications may be obtained at City Hall or the City website at www.cityofsierramadre.com should you wish to apply. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled; however the first review will take place July 6, 2010.

COMMUNITY ARTS COMMISSION

The mission of the Community Arts Commission is to promote the community's interest in, awareness of, and appreciation for the arts; to provide support and

encouragement to artists living in the community; and to increase the community's participation in the arts. Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 6:30 pm, in the City Hall Council Chamber

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

The Community Services Commission is responsible for overseeing the City's recreation and community services programs. The Commission oversees the use of park facilities and matters relating to the community's recreational and service needs. Meets the 3rd Monday at 6:00 pm, in the City Hall Council Chamber

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The responsibilities of the Library Board include the following: establishing Library policies and programs to ensure that quality programs are provided to the community, recommending an annual budget to the City Council for approval, and ensuring that efficient and effective services are provided at the Library. Meets the 4th Wednesday at 7:00 pm, in the City Hall Conference Room

PLANNING COMMISSION

The responsibilities of the Planning Commission fall into two broad categories:

consideration of current land-use (i.e. applications for General Plan amendments, zone changes, specific plans, conditional use permits, tract maps, variances, and appeals of staff land-use decisions); and advising the City Council on City initiated amendments to the City's General Plan.

Meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:00 pm, in the City Hall Council Chamber

SENIOR COMMUNITY COMMISSION

The Senior Community Commission is responsible for defining the needs, locating and publicizing available resources, and coordinating and initiating services and opportunities for the senior population of Sierra Madre. Meets the 1st Thursday at 3:00 pm, in the City Hall Council Chamber

TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Tree Commission is an advisory body to the Director of Public Works, City Manager, Planning Commission, and City Council. The commission shall make recommendations to the Director of Public Works, City Manager, Planning Commission and the City Council as appropriate on matters involving care and maintenance of City-owned trees and trees on private undeveloped property. Meets the 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 pm, in the City Hall Council Chamber

Altadena

Ned Wright Speaks to MWOA Saturday, July 24 On WISE Infrared Survey Explorer

At 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 24, at the Altadena Public Library, you can explore a whole new Universe, as surveyed by an infrared telescope in space. Dr. Edward L. (Ned) Wright, Professor of Physics and Astronomy at UCLA, will speak on "Exploring the Universe with WISE," at MWOA's monthly lecture/meeting. (Note that the meeting date, for this and all subsequent meetings, is on a Saturday, due to the closure of the library on Sundays.)

The Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) was launched in December 2009, and its all-sky survey began in mid-January 2010. WISE is expected to detect hundreds of millions of stars and galaxies, including millions of ultra-luminous infrared galaxies and quasars; hundreds of thousands of asteroids; and hundreds old cold brown dwarf stars. This orbiting telescope takes more than 7,000 framesets per day, with each frameset covering 0.6 square degrees of sky.

Dr. Wright currently holds a David Saxon Presidential Chair in Physics & Astronomy at UCLA. He was data team leader for COBE, co-investigator on WMAP, interdisciplinary scientist on the Spitzer Space Telescope, and is the principal investigator on WISE.

The lecture is free of charge, and all are welcome. Refreshments will be served before the talk, beginning at 2:00 p.m. The Altadena Public Library is located at 600 E. Mariposa Street in Altadena, two stop signs west of Lake Avenue at the corner of Mariposa and Santa Rosa Avenue ("Christmas Tree Lane"). Exit the 210 freeway at Lake Avenue in Pasadena and go approximately 2.5 miles north to Mariposa Street in Altadena. Turn left on Mariposa, go to the second stop sign, turn left on Santa Rosa, and turn into the parking lot at the first driveway on your right.



Arcadia

Volunteer English Tutors Needed

If you have a clear speaking voice without accent or impediment and are free on Monday mornings from 10 a.m. until noon, you are eligible to tutor in the Conversational Skills Class held at the Arcadia Public Library on Monday mornings from 10 am till noon.

No prior teaching experience is required---only a desire to help foreign-born residents improve their English speaking skills so they can communicate with their neighbors, their children's teachers, the doctor and the grocer.

Both men and women substitute tutors are needed for this program run entirely with volunteers and co-sponsored by the Arcadia Public Library and Arcadia Branch American Association of University Women. An orientation/training meeting will be held on July 19 at 10 a.m. There is no obligation in attending. Please contact the Library Services Manager at (626) 821-5570 for further information or to let us know you would like to attend.

Sierra Madre

Pet CPR Class Held



Last Saturday, the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department and Paramedics held a Pet First Aid and CPR training session at La Salle High School. Participants practiced on 'stuffed' pets, learning how to administer rescue breathing, choking and much more. Photo by Dean Lee/MVNews

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Duarte

Council Unanimously Votes to Commence Litigation Against City of Azusa and Vulcan Materials Company

The Duarte City Council unanimously voted to commence litigation against the City of Azusa and Vulcan Materials Company. The vote was taken during a closed session of the Duarte City Council on July 22. The litigation will challenge the environmental review and entitlement approval process utilized for the Vulcan mine expansion project. The lawsuit also pertains to certain Brown Act violations by the City of Azusa. The City of Azusa gave its final approval to the project on July 19. It permits Vulcan to expand mining operations from a currently approved and partially mined 80 acres on the east side of its 270 acre property to pristine Van Tassel Ridge above Duarte homes and schools.

Following the closed session, Duarte City Manager, Darrell George read the following statement:

CITY MANAGER'S STATEMENT ON INITIATING LAWSUIT TO CHALLENGE AZUSA'S APPROVAL OF THE VULCAN MINING EXPANSION PLAN

For years, the City of Duarte has attempted to work with both Vulcan Materials Company and the City of Azusa to create a mining strategy for the Azusa Rock Quarry that benefits the citizens of the San Gabriel Valley. Well before the December 23, 2009, date when the DEIR was released, the City was monitoring the potential for an expansion project. In fact, the initial attempt by Vulcan to submit a project to Azusa was questioned by Duarte and thus rejected outright almost four years ago.

Going back to a joint meeting with the Azusa City Council on January 29, 2008, and the establishment of the FAVE (Fight Against Vulcan Expansion) fund in July 2008 in the amount of \$700,000, the City of Duarte has been refuting all aspects of the proposed expansion. In the last year alone, several hundred hours of time have been spent by experts, staff, and concerned citizens to review and comment on the Development Agreement, CUP, and EIR. Town Hall meetings have been held with AQMD, and attended by legislative representatives from the State, County, and Federal levels, along with the City of Hope. The City's webpage alone has posted upwards of 60 documents from just the past year associated with opposition to the mining expansion. When Vulcan and Azusa officials have asked to meet with Duarte officials, Duarte has always obliged.

One such time was earlier in January, when in response to their request, the City of Duarte made a proposal asking for jurisdictional control of adjacent property to protect against future expansion, as well as compensation for damages and financial guarantees to Duarte to assure delivery of the promised reclamation, as part of an overall settlement. This too was refused by Vulcan and the City of Azusa. Duarte hoped that its concerns could be addressed through those discussions.

Duarte's concerns are significant, but simple:

- **Develop a Mining Plan That Protects All Residents of the San Gabriel Valley:** For years, Duarte has advocated a plan to save the Van Tassel Ridge. Unfortunately, Duarte's plan was dismissed without any meaningful analysis.
- **Environmental Protections for San Gabriel Valley Citizens:** Duarte urged Vulcan and Azusa to install on-site air quality monitoring stations at the Vulcan facility. That basic mitigation and monitoring strategy was rejected without meaningful discussion.
- **Preparation of a Complete and Adequate Environmental Impact Report:** Duarte submitted literally hundreds of comments concerning the many flaws in the environmental analysis of the Vulcan EIR. Those comments have been dismissed or ignored.
- **Conduct a Legal Public Process:** Duarte warned Azusa that its "reconsideration" of Vulcan's mining entitlements and development agreement violated the Brown Act's agenda and noticing requirements. Again, Duarte's warnings

were ignored.

These efforts, and many others, were designed to **avoid** litigation with Azusa and Vulcan. In fact, Duarte hired its own geotechnical consultants to generate the "Good Neighbor Plan" and to independently analyze the volume of aggregate on the site. Those efforts centered on finding a solution for all parties. Duarte also allowed its own legal team to review Azusa's development agreement **for the purpose of making it better**, so that all of the Citizens of the San Gabriel Valley would have more assurances that the "benefits" promised by Vulcan would actually be delivered.

It is frequently reported to the public that Duarte put aside \$700,000 to fight the Vulcan mining plan. But a closer look at how that money has been spent so far shows that Duarte has used its resources to improve upon the profoundly flawed plan generated by Vulcan and approved by Azusa. The simple reality is that litigation was, and always has been, a last resort. Duarte sought, first and foremost, to have Vulcan and Azusa address Duarte's legitimate concerns about the significant, adverse, and long term impacts of Vulcan's mining plan.

Despite its best efforts, Duarte is simply out of options. Litigation is a measure of last resort, and Duarte finds litigation against a neighboring city particularly distasteful. Unfortunately, because all of Duarte's other efforts have been ignored, and because the Vulcan Mining Plan poses unnecessary and substantial threats to the safety,



desirability, and beauty of the San Gabriel Valley, Duarte must resort to the courts to protect its rights and the rights of the broader San Gabriel Valley community. To that end, the Duarte City Council has authorized the commencement of litigation against the City of Azusa and Vulcan, challenging the environmental review and entitlement approval process utilized for the Vulcan mine expansion project.

Duarte Mayor Margaret Finlay said she hopes the citizens of Duarte understand that the decision to proceed with litigation was not taken lightly.

"This is something that is going to go way beyond my lifetime in the impact that it is going to have on this valley. When mining started in the 1920's there were less than 100,000 people that lived in the San Gabriel Valley and it was pick ax and shovel. And today to think of blowing 600 to 800 feet off the top of a mountain when you have more than 2 million people that live in this valley that is unconscionable. There are other places to mine aggregate. You can look at a federal land swap, there are a lot of things that we can look at but Vulcan never wanted to do it. This is a last resort for us. This is something we have to do. We have to take a stand because this is for people who will be here long after I'm here. They are going to have to take a look at that lousy looking hillside and in between now and then we're going to be sucking a whole lot of dust."

Duarte isn't alone in the ongoing fight over the mining expansion plan. A coalition of Azusa residents, Azusans Against Mining Expansion, have begun circulating a petition for a referendum to put the decision into the hands of Azusa voters. The group will need to collect about 1,660 signatures of Azusa voters by Aug. 19 for the issue to qualify for a special election. The website for Azusans Against Mining Expansion is: www.nominatingexpansion.org.

For more information about Duarte's Fight Against Vulcan Expansion, call Deputy City Manager, Karen Herrera at (626) 357-7931, ext. 223.

Summer Worship: 10@10!



Join the San Marino Community Church family for 10@10! - ten weeks of summer worship at 10:00 am on Sundays, July 4 to September 5.

Sunday, July 25 the Rev.

Jeffrey O'Grady, pastor, will

preach "Persistently Persevering Prayer" based on the parable of the persistent neighbor. The service will also feature special music from a vocal quartet.

10:00 am Summer Worship
Sunday school (K-5) and childcare provided
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
11:00 am Adult Spiritual Formation

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

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Pasadena

News From Your Community



Altadena

For Your Community

Sid Tyler Gets Park Named After Him

Former Councilmember Sid Tyler said last week that he was surprised when he heard a landscaped median on Lakewood place could forever be known as "Sidney f. Tyler Park" in his honor.

"Tyler devoted much of his energy to the protection of trees, open space, and parks in Pasadena," Wrote Councilmember Terry Tornek in the formal request. "The dedication of this park, in his name, is well deserved."

The council voted unanimously July 12 in favor of the name after a motion to do so was made by Tornek. Mayor Bill Bogaard said it was an unusually rare opportunity for the council to give recognition to Tyler for serving the city for many years.

Tyler humbled himself saying there were many more deserving people in the community.

"I hope that in spite of the budgetary crisis that we are in that we don't lose sight of the opportunities as they come along in the future to acquire additional park space lands either as additional parts of existing parks or maybe even as new parks..." he said accepting the honor. "

He added that he thought there was support in the city for acquiring new parks, "And I count myself as one of them," he said.

Tornek, elected to the city council last year, replaced Tyler who chose to retire representing district 7. Tyler was first elected in 1997 serving 12 years.

Meeting to Focus On Safety Around Elementary School

Pasadena City Councilwoman Jacque Robinson will host a meeting Tuesday, July 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Perry's Joint, 2051 Lincoln Ave. , to help residents address neighborhood safety issues in the area of Cleveland Elementary School .

Presentations will be provided by Lt. Chris Russ of the Pasadena Police Department and representatives from the Neighborhood Connections Office of the Human Services and Recreation Department; residents will participate in problem-solving dialogs.

Refreshments will be provided. Free parking is available on Lincoln Avenue and Montana Street .

For more information contact District 1 Field Representative Tina Williams at (626) 744-4444 or district1@cityofpasadena.net.

Pet of the Week



Robbie, an outgoing and friendly, two-year-old tabby is looking for a happy home. She loves attention and gets along with other cats. Robbie is already spayed and can go home with you today!

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 A270981 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

City Shows Public Art Some Love

By Dean Lee

The days of secretly sticking a giant haphazard 18-foot fork in the road are over as the city council voted Monday night to set up guideline surrounding a public art program that will allow 10 locations throughout the city for artists to temporarily show off their works.

"Art should be fun" Councilmember Terry Tornek said. "There is a component to this that should be fun. I think that one of the reasons that that fork in the road, piece of guerrilla art, was so successful was because it was whimsical... you can do things if they're transient in nature that you might not otherwise be willing to try."

Tornek suggested there never should have been an attempt to make the wooden fork permanent where Pasadena and St. John avenues divide. The site is now one of 10 locations making up phase one of the new public art exhibition program.

Under the guidelines artwork would be on display, at each site, for one year to 18 months said Cultural Affairs Manager Rochelle Branch. The fork in the road lasted nine months



before Caltrans, who owns the property, requested it taken down.

Bob Stane, owner of The Coffee Gallery Backstage in Altadena, along with what is now known as "The Fork in the Road Gang," mounted a campaign to save the fork.

Stane said last month the fork could come back as part of this art program, which at the time he did not disclose calling it only "an idea the city has."

Branch said the program was intended to both, place existing loaned sculptural works on public view for a limited time and to invite local artists to create works for a specific site within a pre-determined timeframe.

She said the program is based on successful models launched in New York, Chicago, Santa

Monica, Palm Desert and West Hollywood.

Each site will require the installation of cement pads and lighting from below to display the works.

According to Branch, all art, "will be juried by an independent panel of art professionals and community stakeholders which will make recommendations to the Arts and Culture Commission for approval.

Councilmember Steve Haderlein was the only no vote saying he thought the locations were not fairly distributed throughout the city.

Only two of the locations will be in East Pasadena and two in Northwest Pasadena leaving six to be placed elsewhere something he said he could not support.

that signals to me, is a clear indication that the community wants to collaborate, they want me to invest in the future of Pasadena through integration and resource sharing, through open and honest dialog."

Chris Vicino, who had been acting interim police chief, said during the ceremony he would work with Sanchez stepping back into the position as Deputy Chief.

Vicino had started a series of community meetings, a partnership with the Western Justice Center on how to better communicate with the public over policing needs something Sanchez said Tuesday he planned to stay committed to.

The officer-involved shooting February 2009 of Leroy Barnes, a Northwest Pasadena resident, sparked the need for the meetings. Sanchez said the focus needs to be more on youth violence something that had been brought up at the time.

Sanchez discussed budget cuts and freezing 14 positions of sworn officers saying it was the department's contribution to help. He said their response capacity would not change.

He also said he thought predictive policing was the future of law enforcement, using statistical real-time data to show trends, and then better allocating resources to those trends.

Councilwoman Margaret McAustin also hosted a town hall meeting for District 2 Wednesday at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church where Sanchez again met with residents. He said he wanted to build trust between the police and community.



Sanchez Sworn In

New chief hits the ground running

By Dean Lee

Almost 24 hours after being sworn in as the city's next police chief, Phillip Sanchez was out the next night meeting with residents, community leaders and city staff something he said he has been doing for the last three weeks.

Sanchez told a group of residents, during a District 1 town hall meeting at the Rose Bowl Media Room, that his days have been routine getting to Pasadena at 5:30 a.m. working out, going

through a series of meetings, and then leaving at 8:00 after doing paperwork. The meeting was held by Councilwoman Jacque Robinson.

When asked if he planned to move to Pasadena he made a deal, "if you think you have not seen enough of me within eight months, then we can talk about moving here."

According to city documents Sanchez will make just over \$212,000 a year.

He said being sworn July 12 was a humbling experience.

"What I thought was fascinating and profound was the number of community leaders that were there in attendance. What

Thousands Sign Petition in Favor of Ice Rink



By Dean Lee

Council member Steve Madison urged a large group of ice-skating enthusiasts last week to show up August 2, as the city council will once again discuss the idea of moving the Pasadena ice skating facility, currently set to close September of next year.

"Community input means a lot at city hall," Madison said. "The more input we have the better... so please come and let your voice be heard."

Madison also made reference to 6,000 signatures gathered in support of a new rink.

"These signatures are great," he said looking at the numerous 200-foot long sheets of paper unrolled by kids from the Pasadena Maple Leafs Hockey Team. "I'm told that something like one third of these are Pasadena residents, that's an important point for the elected leaders in the city of Pasadena."

The new plan would move the exiting facility to a temporary tent structure presently in the Pasadena Convention Center close to where the rink is now. Mike Ross, chief executive officer of the Pasadena Center Operating Company said the structure built three years ago and was designed

to last 25 years.

The informal meeting was held in the structure. About 150 people attended.

Ross said if approved Aug. 2, the new facility could open before the existing rink closes. "We hope to have it open by August 2011," he said. The project is estimated to cost \$3 million.

Ross said he anticipated part of the cost would come from raising the rates at the rink although he also said only by a reasonable amount. When one person said she would support higher rates, the crowd broke out applauding.

It was also asked if funds could come from holding competitions now that the skating rink could be 25 percent bigger allowing hockey leagues and championship figure skating matches. Ross said there would be seating for only about 100 people.

Pasadena Maple Leafs Hockey Club President Lily Lieu said that was a minor detail.

"Hockey players, hockey parents, I think even figure skating families, we're use to being adjustable and flexible," she said. "We're just glade to have the ice."



PACCD Board President Bradbury-Huang Resigns

The Pasadena Area Community College District Board of Trustees announced Tuesday that its president, Dr. Hilary Bradbury-Huang, will be leaving to accept the position of professor of management at the University of Oregon's Health Sciences University (OHSU) in Portland. Her resignation was final Thursday.

Dr. Bradbury-Huang explained the decision-making behind this move started in the fall of 2009. "This was a tough decision for my husband and me. Transitioning our life and work to Portland and leaving the eternal sunlight of lovely Pasadena seemed at first unthinkable. But Portland made us an offer we couldn't refuse."

Bradbury-Huang has served as president of the PACCD Board of Trustees since December 2009. She was elected in November 2005 to represent Area 5, which includes the cities of South Pasadena, San Marino, and a large portion of Temple City. She was re-elected in August of 2009.

Dr. Mark Rocha, superintendent/president of PCC, expressed gratitude on behalf of the entire faculty, staff, and students of PCC for Bradbury-Huang's service to the college.

"In so many ways, trustee Bradbury-Huang has had a positive effect on the college and the community," Rocha said. "She will be sorely missed. We are all deeply grateful for her service and wish her and her family all the best in their



new adventure."

During her tenure as trustee, Bradbury-Huang oversaw the completion of many Measure P construction projects, including the Industrial Technologies Building, Bookstore, and Campus Center. She was also involved in the groundbreaking of the forthcoming PCC Center for the Arts.

An environmentalist, Bradbury-Huang spoke to the board about sustainability issues at her first board meeting. She happily notes that these new practices (such as LEED) will be part of all ongoing building efforts at PCC.

More recently, Bradbury-Huang led the six month search that culminated in June 2010 with the unanimous appointment of Dr. Rocha as PCC superintendent/president. Overall she hopes to be best remembered for emphasizing the unique needs of the Asian-American student population at PCC, which also forms a large majority of constituents in the area she represented.

Eatery Destroyed by Fire



Water rushes out of Plate 38 after firefighters put out a two-alarm fire destroying most of the building's roof.

Four days after the grand opening of the new restaurant Plate 38, the café was declared a major loss as a fire raged through the roof July 9 sending customers and employees running for safety.

"We heard that insulation in the ceiling caught fire from sparks after someone was welding on the roof," a small group of customers said standing outside the heavily damaged building on the corner of Sierra Madre and Colorado Boulevards.

According to firefighters on scene, they responded shortly after 11:00 a.m. to a ceiling fire. The fire raged for over an hour before being fully put out. Reports from a news helicopter

show the fire visible for miles.

The intersection of Sierra Madre and Colorado was shutdown most of the afternoon. Two firefighters were injured, one heat related and the other for burns, according to fire officials.

The café's owner, Robert Humphreys, told reporters he planned to recover.

"Everyone was so exited and so happy," he told KCAL 9 reporter Greg Mills. "And now it's going to probably be another two or three months [before opening again]... we have about 30 employees that are not going to be able to work here."

Twelve customers were in the building when the fire started.

Pool Safety Review Called

In light of today's incident at Arcadia County Park , Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich will introduce a motion to direct the Departments of Parks and Recreation and Public Health to conduct a thorough investigation of all County public pools to identify and remove any conditions that may impact public safety. Antonovich's motion will require

a report back to the Board on current testing procedures of water and equipment, and recommendations to ensure water quality and safety in public pools.

Approximately a dozen swimmers at Arcadia County Park were evacuated today from the public pool due to a problem with the pool pump system that may have caused over-chlorination in the water.

Citizen Journalism Boot Camp

Learn not just how to blog but how to report the news



Get hands-on multimedia journalism training! What makes news? Is it better to use a video instead of a still photo? How can I get this story out?

Pasadena Community Network and this newspaper are holding a seminar on Citizen Journalism. Putting the news in your hands. Learn how to find the story, the tools needed to capture the story and the means to tell the story using the power of video, audio and print

along with the internet. Free orientation August 11, class from 11a.m.- 1p.m. at the PCN studios 2061 N. Los Robles Ave. #109. For more info contact Aaron Wheeler (626) 794-8585. Cost of the six week camp is \$10 which covers all instructional materials and equipment.

Independent Report Says Continued EPA Climate Action is Critical

A new analysis from the World Resources Institute (WRI) confirms that preserving the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) authority to aggressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions has substantial near term benefits. The authors say the analysis highlights both the need to pass climate legislation and the importance of beating back challenges to EPA action by some on Capitol Hill.

The WRI study shows that we have tools that can start us on the road to achieving significant greenhouse gas reductions but still more needs to be done. Washington, DC (Vocus) July 23, 2010

A new analysis from the World Resources Institute (WRI) confirms that preserving the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) authority to aggressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions has substantial near term benefits. The authors say the analysis highlights

both the need to pass climate legislation and the importance of beating back challenges to EPA action by some on Capitol Hill.

The analysis finds that if the federal government and states move aggressively, through 2016, it could successfully use existing authorities to put the country on a trajectory to meet the Obama Administration's reduction target of "in the range of" 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020. Importantly, longer-term reductions require comprehensive legislation.

Last year, EPA made final its determination that global warming pollution constitutes a public danger. Since then several pieces of legislation have been introduced that would short circuit EPA's authority, all of which are opposed by NWF. Joe Mendelson, global warming policy director for NWF served as co-counsel throughout the landmark case (Mass. v EPA) that resulted EPA's action to

curb global warming pollution. Mendelson praised WRI's findings saying:

"The WRI study shows that we have tools that can start us on the road to achieving significant greenhouse gas reductions but still more needs to be done. EPA action can take us significantly down the path of averting the climate crisis but we will need aggressive climate and energy legislation to ultimately end our addiction to fossil fuels.

"Of course Big Oil doesn't want to be held accountable for their pollution and will dig into their wallets and mobilize their army of lobbyists to fight EPA at every turn. WRI has made it acutely clear why we'll fight tooth and nail against Big Oil backed challenges in Congress to EPA action."

The National Wildlife Federation is America's largest conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

CA Plastic Bag Ban Idea Catching On?

By James Hudson

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - After three decades, the old question, "Paper or plastic?" may soon be a thing of the past in California. The Golden State became the first to address this issue with the Plastic Bag Recycling Act of 2006, designed to curb the use of an estimated 19 billion bags per year in the state by instituting recycling programs.

Now, California Assembly Bill 1998 could prohibit supermarkets and pharmacies from providing single-use plastic carryout bags altogether. Dave Heylan of the California Grocers Association explains why his organization is in favor of the bill.

"We wanted to make it uniform statewide, so we could have the greatest amount of environmental gain, while having the least amount of impact on retailers and their day-to-day business."

In 1977, plastic grocery bags were introduced

to American supermarkets as an alternative to paper ones that were filling up landfills. A new story from DCBureau.org points to the fact that many of the bags are discarded in other ways, found along roadsides, coastlines and caught in trees after being blown by the wind.

If AB 1998 passes, it would not go into effect until January 1, 2012, giving retailers and shoppers time to adjust. So, if paper and plastic are out, what is a shopper to do? Heylan has a suggestion.

"What the consumer can do is just begin the process of remembering to bring their reusable bag."

Several groups are voicing opposition to the bill, including the Biodegradable Products Institute, which supports the use of bags that break down in landfills and in water, as well as bag manufacturing companies. Similar legislation is on the books in dozens of other states as well as in many cities nationwide.

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, July 11, through Saturday, July 17, the Police Department responded to 954 calls for service of which 122 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, July 11:

1. Between 2:20 p.m. and 2:35 p.m., a residential burglary occurred in the 2400 block of El Monte. Unknown suspects entered the home through an unlocked bedroom window and stole a plasma television, DVD player, cameras, laptop computer, and other miscellaneous property. The homeowner returned home and saw three male Hispanic subjects in a green vehicle leave the scene.

2. Around 10:25 p.m., a consensual contact was made with a bicyclist at Live Oak and Second. The 54-year-old male Hispanic parolee consented to a search, and officers found a smoking pipe and baggies containing methamphetamine and marijuana. The subject also had a misdemeanor warrant and was taken into custody for possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and felony parole violation.

Monday, July 12:

3. A residential burglary occurred in the 1000 block of Fairview between 12:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Unknown suspect(s) smashed a window to gain entrance into the house. The suspect(s) then ransacked rooms and stole cash.

4. Units responded to Westfield Mall around 3:46 p.m. in reference to two 18-year-old subjects detained for theft. While in the American Apparel store, one Filipino female was seen concealing merchandise in her purse; the other Chinese female was located outside the store wearing a stolen jacket from Cotton On. Private persons' arrests were made, and they were taken into custody without incident.

Tuesday, July 13:

5. Shortly after 2:30 a.m., units were dispatched to the 800 block of West Huntington in reference to a restraining order violation. Upon arrival, officers located a vehicle with three occupants. A 27-year-old male Caucasian suspect was sitting in the back seat with computer equipment and a duffle bag containing credit cards and personal identifying information belonging to different individuals. In a previous incident, the suspect held a knife to a woman's throat and took her cell phone. The man was arrested for robbery and receiving stolen property.

6. Around 10:00 p.m., a witness saw three male subjects attempting to pry open a rear window of a closed business in the 00 block of East Duarte. Officers located the suspects in an alley and they admitted to trying to break into the business to steal property. Two Caucasian

suspects, ages 16 and 18, and an 18-year-old Hispanic were taken into custody for attempted commercial burglary.

Wednesday, July 14:

7. A victim came to the station around 10:19 a.m. to file a fraud report. She was checking her account online and discovered an unauthorized transfer of almost \$16,000 into a bank account that did not belong to her.

8. Between 11:45 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., a residential burglary occurred in the 00 block of East Colorado. Unknown suspect(s) gained entry into the residence by smashing a window and then reaching inside to unlock the front door. The suspect(s) then stole a semi-automatic rifle, a 12-gauge shotgun, and several ammunition clips.

Thursday, July 15:

9. Officers were sent to the 5600 block of North Peck around 1:00 p.m. regarding a fraud investigation. The owner mailed a check for \$80,337 in March, and in June she discovered that the check had not reached the recipient but was cashed at a check cashing business.

10. Around 3:18 p.m., units responded to the 300 block of Fairview in reference to two male subjects possibly smoking marijuana. An 18-year-old man was arrested for possession of marijuana and possession of a driver's license belonging to another individual.

Friday, July 16:

11. A victim came to the station around 7:45 p.m. to file an identity theft report. On July 9, she received an overdue notice from a collection agency. She checked her credit report and discovered that a line of credit with a balance of \$11,242 was opened using her personal identifying information without her knowledge.

12. Between 3:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., a 1998 black Honda Civic was stolen from the Peacock parking structure located at Westfield Mall.

Saturday, July 17:

13. At approximately 3:00 p.m., units were called to County Park regarding an assault that just occurred. A 46-year-old female Caucasian transient was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon when she attempted to strike a male transient with her vehicle. Investigation revealed that the two transients were involved in a physical altercation several hours prior to the assault.

14. Loss prevention personnel from JC Penney detained a woman for theft around 4:50 p.m. The suspect was seen concealing a necklace in her bra and then left the store without making payment. She stole 14 pieces of jewelry from JC Penney and 3 necklaces from Claire's for a total of \$661. A private person's arrest was made, and the 30-year-old Hispanic was taken into custody for grand theft.

Celebrate the Start of



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6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

MEMORIAL PARK



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For more information, please contact Sierra Madre Police Department (626) 355-1414




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Gary R. White, DVM

THE WORLD AROUND US

Looking Up

with Bob Eklund

Astronomers Discover An Unusual Cosmic Lens

Astronomers at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland have discovered the first known case of a distant galaxy being magnified by a quasar acting as a gravitational lens. The discovery, based in part on observations done at the W. M. Keck Observatory on Hawaii's Mauna Kea, was published July 16 in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*.

Quasars, which are extraordinary luminous objects in the distant universe, are thought to be powered by supermassive black holes in the cores of galaxies. A single quasar could be a thousand times brighter than an entire galaxy of a hundred billion stars, which makes studies of their host galaxies exceedingly difficult. The significance of the discovery, the researchers say, is that it provides a novel way to understand these host galaxies.

"It is a bit like staring into bright car headlights and trying to discern the color of their rims," says Frederic Courbin of EPFL, the lead author on the paper. Using gravitational lensing, he says, "we now can measure the masses of these quasar host galaxies and overcome this difficulty."

According to Einstein's general theory of relativity, if a large mass (such as a big galaxy or a cluster of galaxies) is placed along the line of sight to a distant galaxy, the part of the light that comes from the galaxy will split. Because of this, an observer on Earth will see two or more close images of the now-magnified background galaxy.

The first such gravitational lens was discovered in 1979, and produced an image of a distant quasar that was magnified and split by a foreground galaxy. Hundreds of cases of gravitationally lensed quasars are now known. But, until the current work, the reverse process—a background galaxy being lensed by the massive host galaxy of a foreground quasar—had never been detected.

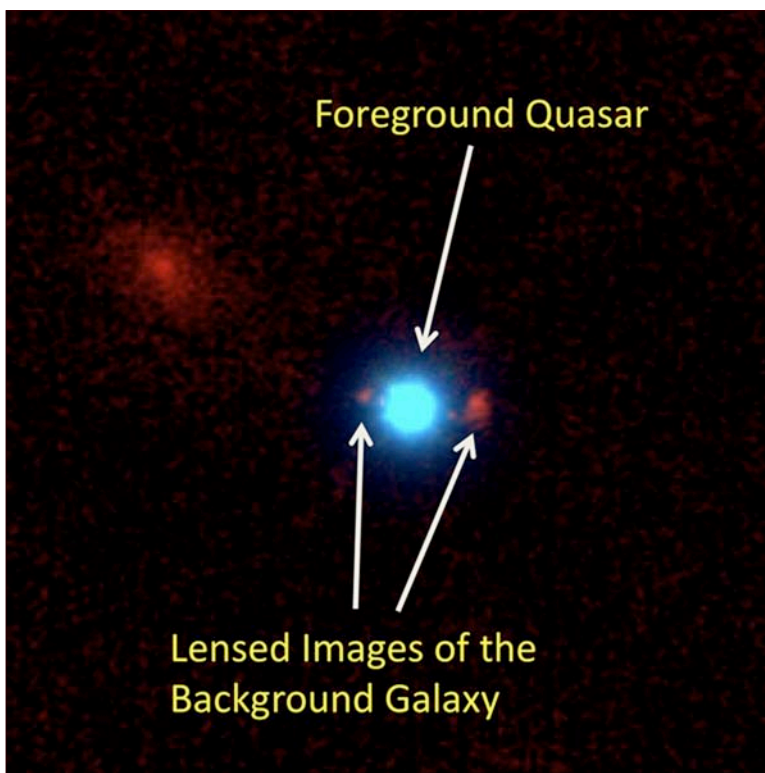


Image of the quasar SDSS J0013+1523 (blue), bracketed by the lensed images of the background galaxy (red), obtained with the W. M. Keck Observatory's 10-m telescope and Adaptive Optics.

The use of gravitational lensing to measure the masses of distant galaxies independent of their brightness was first suggested in 1936 by Mount Wilson/Caltech astrophysicist Fritz Zwicky, and the technique has been used effectively for this purpose in recent years. Until now, it had never been applied to measure the masses of quasar host galaxies.

To find this cosmic lens, the astronomers searched a large database of quasar spectra obtained by the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) to select candidates for "reverse" quasar-galaxy gravitational lensing. Follow-up observations of the best candidate—quasar SDSS J0013+1523, located about 1.6 billion light years away—using the W. M. Keck Observatory's 10-meter telescope, confirmed that the quasar was indeed magnifying a far more distant galaxy, located about 7.5 billion light years away.

"We were delighted to see that this idea actually works," says Georges Meylan, a professor of physics and leader of the EPFL team. "This discovery demonstrates the continued utility of gravitational lensing as an astrophysical tool."

"Quasars are valuable probes of galaxy formation and evolution," says Professor of Astronomy S. George Djorgovski, leader of the Caltech team. Furthermore, he adds, "discoveries of more such systems will help us understand better the relationship between quasars and the galaxies which contain them, and their coevolution."

Images of the lens are available at <http://www.astro.caltech.edu/~george/qsolens/>.

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

Survey Reveals The Positive Impact Teachers Have On Students' Lives

(NAPS)—Next to immediate family, teachers have the most impact on people's lives as they grow up. That's just one of the key findings of a recent national survey of Americans' attitudes toward teachers. The survey also found that:

- 88 percent of Americans say they had a teacher who had a "significant, positive impact" on their life, and 98 percent of those surveyed believe that a good teacher can change the course of a student's life.
- 87 percent of respondents said they wish they had told their best teachers how much they appreciated their efforts.

Teachers Can Change Lives

The survey, conducted by the ING Foundation, found that people believe that teachers help in many ways. Among the vast majority of Americans who said they had a teacher or teachers who had a "significant, positive impact" on their life growing up, 83 percent said they had a teacher who helped build their confidence and self-esteem, 79 percent had a teacher who encouraged them to pursue their dreams, 75 percent said a teacher served as a mentor or role model, and 54 percent said that a teacher helped them through a tough time.

"As our research shows, effective teachers can have a significant influence on their students' lives, yet their efforts are generally underappreciated," said Rhonda Mims, president of the ING Foundation and senior vice president of ING's Office of Corporate Responsibility and Multicultural Affairs.

"It's an unbelievable testament to the profession that Americans so resoundingly



2010 Teacher of the Year Sarah Brown Wessling (Iowa) with President Obama

believe in a teacher's ability to transform lives," said Mims. "Whether sending students down a path they hadn't considered or simply ensuring they are ready for the road ahead, a teacher's impact can be profound and enduring."

An overwhelming 93 percent of those surveyed agree that teaching is a noble profession, and 89 percent believe teachers have a "really hard job." Many Feel Teachers Deserve More Recognition

At the same time, there is general acknowledgment that the public has not done enough to recognize good teachers. Overall, teachers are perceived as receiving

less gratitude than other "helping professionals," including doctors, nurses, social workers and clergy.

The vast majority of Americans (94 percent) acknowledge that we need to do more to recognize our teachers.

"While admiration for the teaching profession is widespread, expressions of gratitude are few and far between," noted Catherine Smith, CEO, ING U.S. Retirement Services. Said Smith, "Most of us had a teacher growing up who cultivated a love of learning, helped us through a trying time or encouraged us to pursue our dreams. It's never too late to say thanks for some lessons that lasted a lifetime."

National Teacher Of The Year

The ING Foundation is also a presenting sponsor of the National Teacher of the Year. This year's recipient, Sarah Brown Wessling, is an English teacher and English Department Chair at Johnston High School in Johnston, Iowa, where she is in her 11th year as a teacher. She is the 60th recipient of this prestigious national award. Wessling holds a B.A. in English Education and a Master of Arts in English from Iowa State University.

Wessling was recognized for her community involvement, interactive and innovative teaching style and her inclusiveness in the classroom. Wessling will be a full-time national and international spokesperson for education for one year.

In a recent survey, 94 percent of Americans said that the public needs to do more to recognize good teachers.

Titanic Day for Science Classes at La Salle During the Cardboard Regatta II at Sierra Madre Pool

Story and Photo by John Blackstock

Pasadena, CA - On May 25, 2010, La Salle High School's Cardboard Boat Regatta II set off to sea once again. Under the guidance of physics teachers Chiya Bauer, Kjersti Housman, Brian Miller '79 and geometry teacher Susie Harrison, junior physics students, in teams of three, were paired with a freshman or sophomore Honors Geometry student to create an unsinkable boat. These teams were given an assignment to utilize the principles of geometry and physics that pertain to Archimedes Principle and the Laws of Buoyancy. The task was to design and produce a cardboard boat that was capable of traversing approximately 40 meters each the laws of physics apply as the an occasional capsizing and encouraged to create themes for students and teachers all had a more knowledge of the physics



Left: Monique O'Conner and Molly Malone; Above, Jessica Kennedy, Chloe Cross, Alex Daugherty, Sophia Ratkovich and Hanna Zimmerman; Right, Ian Schuler and Chris Alvarado

Swim Lessons

Swim lessons are available at the Sierra Madre Aquatic Center through Labor Day weekend. Classes are geared for children as young as 6 months, with instruction focused on swim technique development for all skill sets. Swim classes are held weekly in both the morning and evening. One week lessons are \$35 per participant for 45 minutes, Monday through Friday. For more information on class times and dates, contact the Aquatic Center at 626-355-2356.

Pool Movie Night

The Sierra Madre Aquatic Center will be hosting a FREE movie night on Wednesday, July 28, 2010. Surf's Up will be shown starting at 8:00pm and all families and youth are encouraged to dress in a Hawaiian theme! The Sierra Madre Dolphin Swim Team will be at the Aquatic Center selling snacks and drinks at the movie. Please be sure to arrive early, as the maximum facility capacity may be reached before the start of the movie. The Aquatic Center is located at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. For more information call 626-355-5278.

Congressman Schiff Now Accepting Applications for Fall 2010 Congressional Page Program

Applications due July 30

Each semester, the leadership of the Democratic and Republican parties select Members of the U.S. House of Representatives by random lottery draw to nominate students for the House Page Program. Today, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) announced that he won the lottery this year and now has the opportunity to nominate a student from the 29th Congressional District to be part of the Page Program during the fall of 2010.

"The House Page Program is a great opportunity for students to come to Washington, DC, experiencing Congress in action and assisting with official House duties," Rep. Schiff said. "The Page Program is a tradition more than 200 years old, and I encourage all high school students in our community to apply."

Among other things, House Pages deliver correspondence and legislative material throughout the Capitol Complex. They also work within the Democratic and Republican cloakrooms taking messages and answering phones.

For more information, please contact Rep. Schiff's Pasadena office at 626-304-2727.



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1015 Arcadia Ave #11, 363 Heather Heights Ct.,	Open Saturday 2-4pm Arcadia Monrovia Connie Hanson Gary Lorenzini	\$470,000 \$699,000
224 Hacienda Dr., 10548 Lynrose St.,	Open Saturday & Sunday 2-4pm Arcadia Temple City Gary Lorenzini Janet Ho	\$4,388,000 \$699,000
240 N Orange Grove Blvd.,	Open Saturday & Sunday 2-5pm Pasadena Mel Macklin	\$539,000
900 Montecito Dr., 8518 Los Olivos Dr., 819 Los Olivos Dr.,	Open Sunday 1-4pm San Gabriel San Gabriel San Gabriel Phil Daniels Phil Daniels Phil Daniels	\$499,000 \$539,000 \$658,000
1921 S Primrose Ave., 22 Lucille St. #6, 425 N 1 st Ave Unit E, 440 W Duarte Rd Unit B, 821 Country Oaks, 2159 Highland Vista Dr., 1142 La Rosa Rd., 1725 Holly Ave., 2413 S 3 rd Ave., 29 Hacienda Dr., 2424 Oswego St.,	Open Sunday 2-4pm Alhambra Arcadia Arcadia Arcadia Arcadia Arcadia Arcadia Arcadia Pasadena Pasadena Sierra Madre Sierra Madre Temple City Temple City Temple City Temple City Temple City Temple City	\$474,000 \$488,000 \$508,000 \$755,000 \$798,000 \$948,000 \$998,000 \$1,080,000 \$1,195,000 \$2,280,000 \$399,000 - \$599,000 \$779,000 \$688,000 \$879,000 \$395,000 \$475,000 \$599,000 \$599,000
2440 Las Lunas St., 50 Esperanza Ave Unit C, 2224 Santa Anita Ave., 6004 Rosemead Blvd. #4, 9558 Workman Ave., 4825 Arden, 6373 N Encinita Ave.,	Open Sunday 2-5pm Monrovia Pasadena Susan Miali Mel Macklin	\$799,000 \$599,000

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

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

Arcadia High School

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

Arroyo Pacific Academy

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

Barnhart School

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

Bethany Christian School

93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3527 Principal: James Lugenbuehl
E-mail address: jml@bcsllions.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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RICH Johnson For How Much the ‘Bell’ Tolls



What we have witnessed in the recent debacle in Bell, California should teach us a very important lesson.

If you are unfamiliar with what took place, starting a few years back, the Bell City Council voted salaries for their city officials that now eclipse the salaries of people such as, oh, President Obama down to the Los Angeles County Sheriff and the Los Angeles Police Department Police Chief.

And those sneaky part-time city council members (save one latecomer) voted themselves salaries of nearly \$100,000 a year each (compare that to the \$3,000 or so our Sierra Madre Council Members earn per annum.)

The City Manager was making nearly \$800,000 a year which is higher than anyone in the country including oh, the mayors of Chicago-\$170,000, New York-\$190,000, and Los Angeles-\$207,000. The Bell Police Chief made \$457,000 annually which is 50% higher than the Police Chief of that little village known as Los Angeles. Even the assistant city manager makes \$376,000 annually, more

than most city managers (not assistants.) And these people have unbelievable pensions coming to them when they retire or resign. All, apparently, untouchable at first glance.

What happened? Well, in November, 2005 a special municipal election was held to change the city to a charter city, which took it off the scope of those state agencies that monitor obscene city officials income. Out of 38,000 or so citizens of Bell, 400 showed up to vote in this “special” election.

The lesson for is to stay very involved with what goes on in the town we call home.

Bearing that in mind, I feel better about having publicly commended a local blog a few weeks ago. Hard to feel good about it because he repaid my public endorsement the next day with yet another out-of-line and mean-spirited personal attack on my editor.

And though I would like to tell you to not read “The Rattler,” in light of the Bell, California controversy, maybe it is more important that you stay informed of all the opinions pertaining to our fair city. That suggestion comes with a warning, however. *Do your own verifications of the facts.*

I just wonder why the majority of people who comment in “The Rattler” won’t give out their real names?



Ask jai.....

Ask jai is a weekly column that will strive to honestly answer your job search questions relating to job searching techniques, networking skills, resume writing and interviewing. The employment situation is getting better, however, it is still a challenge finding where the jobs are located and how to get pass the “gate-keepers”. As an Executive Recruiter I was privy to working directly with Corporate Recruiters and understanding their process in selecting which candidates to interview and hire. I will candidly answer your questions, possibly bluntly answering you questions, but I will be totally honest. My objective is to help you achieve your employment goal.

Q: I have over 15 years experience in marketing and worked for 3 employers. I do not feel that a one page resume tells my story. What is the right number of pages for a resume? Perplexed.

A: Dear Perplexed, The appropriate number of pages for a resume depends on your work history and experience. Rule of thumb is no more than two pages. I would suggest one page if you have less than five years experience and two pages if you have more than five years experience. Be sure that you include all the necessary information to get the employer’s attention to respond to your interest in their position: Summary of Experience, Work History with accomplishment statements, Computer and Software skills, Industry skills and Education.

Q: I received a call from an employer who said she was reviewing resumes and wanted to ask me only one question: “What type of salary did I want?” I wasn’t sure what to say. I was afraid that I would give her an answer that would be too high or low and not be considered for the job. The answer I finally gave her was the salary that I made at my last position. I was really underpaid at my last job. What should I have said? Underpaid.

A: Dear Underpaid, Employers typically conduct a “candidate screening call”. It sounds like this was a screening call and not a telephone interview. In this scenario there is only one person who does not know what

the salary is. That is you. You should always prepare yourself to answer this question during a screening call, telephone interview or office interview.

If you have no idea what the salary for the position is you have all the right in the world to ask the employer. Knowing the salary should also become part of your employment screening process. A possible response could have been “I did not notice a listing for the salary. Could you tell me what the range is?”

At this point you should be prepared to respond if you are or not comfortable with the range. If the employer does not give you a salary range and pushes you for a response, again, be prepared with a salary response. I would suggest that you give the employer a \$5,000 - \$10,000 range around the salary you actually want. Be very careful with your response because an employer will usually hold you to what ever salary or salary range you give. Research salaries in your area by checking out the following websites: www.PayScale.com or www.Salary.com.

Jai Johnson has over 20 years experience as a national and local Executive Recruiter, Job Search Advisor and Career Coach. She has assisted thousands of job seekers to find and secure employment in their chosen field of education and experience. Ms. Johnson is a member of NAWA and CPRW. Send your job search questions to her at: j.johnson@mtnviewsnews.com



In Superman III, Richard Pryor played the role of a slightly warped computer programmer with a certain prowess at using computers to develop financial programming schemes. His morally-compromised employer plotted to use this ability to develop a computer system, whose ultimate function would be the control of financial markets world-wide. Fast-forward to 1987, and the very real stock market crash now known as “Black Monday” can be traced to the stock trading computers and software in use at the time, all beginning to dump assets in unison in response to a unusual set of input data. By the time the closing bell rang, the Dow had lost almost 23 percent of its value in just one trading day.

Fast-forward to today, and the massively powerful computer software and hardware used to run our modern stock markets are far more advanced than any machines imagined in either of the two previously mentioned scenarios. On the modern financial battlefield, cutting-edge computer systems running complex mathematical formulae trawl through mountains of data looking for patterns indicative of movement in areas of interest so that one system can gain a millisecond jump on other similar systems in placing buy or sell orders. Other machines engage in semi-secret data-gathering and still other systems poll each other for pricing information about various commodities and financial derivatives and complete the transactions in fractions of a second. The profit on these deals is often only cents or fractions of a cent per trade, but multiply those razor-thin gains against the thousands of transactions completed daily and these small numbers add up to big numbers in little to no time.

No small amount of time, effort and often pure genius goes into the development of the computer systems that control the financial fates of world markets, but the real question remains as

to what have we might be missing when we look at the big picture. Often the technology we see may be masking a flawed system of conducting business. After the most recent stock market troubles, there was no shortage of factors that could be assigned blame for the various meltdowns, but even as the dust still settles it has become quite evident that many of the processes and methodologies in use made it very difficult for those who had the most to be concerned about to get a clear view as to what was really happening before their very eyes.

In the very best of circumstances, our use of technology advances knowledge of ourselves and the world around us beyond what was thought possible just a few short years ago. In the worst cases, it enables us to do bad things or stupid things faster and on a larger scale than ever before possible. With the exception of movie plots, people rarely set out to do evil using advanced technology. More often than not, where real harm has been done, it has often been the result of unintended consequences or unattended operation. Those charged with monitoring the system were either not doing so or paying attention to the wrong things. With any system sufficiently advanced, most external analysis quickly devolves into guesstimation and post-mortem commentary because there may be simply too many variables to account for in the equation.

Technology remains first and foremost a tool to be used with a definite purpose in mind and in the pursuit of a definite goal. In the best cases this tool can make existing systems more efficient, but there is always the chance that the pursuit of efficiency can cause us to miss the fact that sometimes the underlying processes of a system may be in need of drastic repair and reform before the application of layers of complex technology that would in effect enable us to make bad business models bigger and big mistakes faster.

Food & Drink Mountain Views News Saturday, July 24, 2010 7



TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

Service with a Smile....

Have you noticed a friendlier attitude at your favorite restaurant lately? I sure have!!

Recently, I was dining at one my favorite restaurants in La Cañada and, being my typically demanding self, I wanted to make a substitution for one of the items that was coupled with my meal. I know this restaurant is not in the habit of granting such a request, but without hesitation, I was told, “Yes”. I clearly remember in the past feeling like I was back in high school when I came here, because “No” was always their answer. It seems to me that servers need to have some power of authority to make the simplest decisions and please their customers. I mean, if they have the chicken available for a Caesar Salad, shouldn’t a substitution request be answered with a, “Yes we Can!!!!”? Here I go again, but the times are tough and it seems I finally have them where I want them. Oh, the sweet taste of victory!

Owner Robin Salzar, from the restaurant that bears his name, used to have all the servers wear a button that said, “Yes!!!!” Many restaurants are now waiving or, should I say, not enforcing the split or sharing policy. It’s usually a (\$4) split fee. If the server brings out an extra plate, who cares? I recently asked that my hamburger be cut in half at The Yard House, but they brought the burger out whole. I asked, “What gives?” The server said, “It was policy for all food to come out of the kitchen whole, something about presentation.” So, we had to do it ourselves, I am very fond of the Yard House, better than average Pub Grub, but I think they are wrong in not dividing a burger upon request.

What do you think?

Rumors and Ramblings.... I see that there is a For Lease sign right smack on the side of the El Chollo building on Fair Oaks, I hear they are looking at the old Twin Palms space. Very interesting!

Please listen every Sunday Night to Dining with Dills on KABC Talk Radio 790 AM. E-mail me at thechefknows@yahoo.com

Watch Peter Dills' TV Show every Sunday night at 9 p.m. on KJLA / LA1V. If you like to dine out, Tune in to Dining with Dills, LA's only Restaurant TV Show.

Contact Peter at: thechefknows@yahoo.com

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8 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM Western Swing Masters COW BOP !! with Bruce Forman

9 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM The Jack Sheldon Quartet

10 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM Lisa Finnie & Freinds

11 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero & the 322 singers

15 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM Riner Skivaly Quartet

16 8:00 PM - 11:55 PM THE TRIP !! a reunion concert to benefit City of Hope Cancer Center

17 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM Pianist Jon Mayer with Saxophonist Ricky Woodard

18 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero & the 322 singers

22 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM The Jennifer Lietham Trio

23 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM the ELLIOT CAINE Sextet

24 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Jazz Vocalist JUDY WEXLER 10:00 PM - 11:55 PM DIRTY DAVE OSTI and the DYNAMITES

25 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero & the 322 singers

28 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM Who Left the Barn Door Open !! Bluegrass & roots country from SIMON PURE

29 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM The Steve Creason Band

30 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM Flat Top Tom Swing Dance Party

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From New York City to Sierra Madre



Sierra Madre’s Savor the Flavor has returned from the NY Fancy Food Show and in our 12 years of business, this was by far the best one - lots of new and innovative products! We brought back the list of award winners that we will be carrying in our shop. The products are listed below:

- Spices of India Seasoning
- Porta Mangiare Biscotti Mix
- Peach, Pecan and Amaretto Preserves
- King’s Cupboard Bittersweet Chocolate Sauce
- Fig Pear with Orange Fruit Compote
- Whole Wheat Dark Chocolate Cookies
- Sweet Potato Butter
- Goodnight Kiss Tea
- Three Chilis Chocolate Chunk Hot Cocoa Mix
- Masala Marinara Pasta Sauce
- Walnut Champagne Vinegar

We can't wait to share these wonderful gourmet goodies with all our foodie friends! Karen and Maddie

Savor the Flavor 11 Kersting Court - Sierra Madre www.savorthetheflavor.net

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ARCADIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Proudly Presents

Taste of Arcadia

The Arcadia Chamber of Commerce is already gearing up for our annual Taste of Arcadia evening at the Aboretum on Monday, September 20 at 5:30pm. Just go to the arcadiacachamber.org website to find out more and to buy tickets. If you would rather, you may call the Chamber office 626 447-2159 to place your order for tickets, too.

TASTE OF ARCADIA ticket prices will remain the same as last year, only \$35 until August 20, \$45 until Sept 19, and at the door tickets are \$55. The price is inclusive of all restaurant, beer and wine samplings and tastings. Live entertainment by Cold Duck, and raffle prizes round out the evening of food and beverage tastings from over 35 restaurants, and many wineries and breweries.

Presently, we are happy to announce several sponsors: Matt Denny's Alehouse is sponsoring the Martini Bar, Westfield and Waste Management are coming on board with spoonsorships, also. Tables of 10 may be reserved, and for businesses, a reserved table for 10 and 2 Pasadena Star News ads on your choice of dates, plus special recognition is part of a special package, too.

Many food and beverage establishments have opted in already: Souplantation, The Derby, Classic Wines, Matt Denny's Alehouse to name a few.

September 20 in Arcadia, at the Arboretum, Taste of Arcadia - "nothin' could be fina" . .

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Mountain Views News has been adjudicated as a newspaper of General Circulation for the County of Los Angeles in Court Case number GS004724: for the City of Sierra Madre; in Court Case GS005940 and for the City of Monrovia in Court Case No. GS006989 and is published every Saturday at 55 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., No. 302, Sierra Madre, California, 91024. All contents are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without the express written consent of the publisher. All rights reserved. All submissions to this newspaper become the property of the Mountain Views News and may be published in part or whole.

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Mountain Views News is wholly owned by Grace Lorraine Publications, Inc. and reserves the right to refuse publication of advertisements and other materials submitted for publication.

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

OPINION

HAIL Hamilton



Muir High School. It was the first time I had seen most of my Mustang classmates in more than 40 years. When I entered the banquet room all my old high school memories surfaced. I was reminded of the lyrics from the Bowling for Soup hit, "High School Never Ends."

*Four years, you think for sure
That's all you've got to endure
All the total dicks, all the stuck-up chicks
So superficial, so immature*

*And then when you graduate
You take a look around and you say, "Hey,
wait!"*

*This is the same as where I just came from
I thought it was over, oh, that's just great*

*The whole damned world is just as obsessed
With who's the best dressed and who's having
sex*

*Who's got the money, who gets the honeys
Who's kinda cute and who's just a mess...*

*And the only thing that matters
Is climbing up that social ladder
Still care about your hair and the car you
drive*

Doesn't matter if you're sixty or thirty-five...

I was pleasantly surprised however. A few of the old "jocks" and social elites were there but the old "clicks" we used to belong to were conspicuously absent. Everyone had mellowed with time and seemed genuinely interested in getting reacquainted with each other and reminiscing about old times. What struck me most was the level of accomplishment and contributions my class had made during a time of so much dramatic social change.

Of the thirty or so who attended, all had gone to college, many had graduated with honors, and some had gone on to graduate school to become doctors, lawyers, accountants, scientists, engineers, executives, and entrepreneurs of various kinds. Four were decorated combat veterans, three had been professional athletes, and two were renowned filmmakers. One was a high school teacher who writes a column in a local weekly newspaper.

Talking with my old classmates I learned how different yet similar our lives had become. Some of us were conservative Republicans, others were liberal Democrats, and still others considered themselves unreformed '60s radicals. We were a diverse group--socially, politically, and racially--

My Turn High School Never Ends

to be sure. But whatever our differences we all shared the same core values of honesty, respect and loyalty we had learned from our parents and teachers. We also talked about many of the memorable experiences and common characteristics we shared as a generation.

▪ **Memorable experiences:** assassination of JFK, RFK, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr., walk on the moon, risk of the draft, the Vietnam War, credibility gap, anti-war protests, riots, Watergate, social experimentation, sexual freedom, Roe v. Wade, Stonewall Riots, civil rights movement, environmental movement, women's movement, Woodstock and similar music festivals, the Beach Boys, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the Grateful Dead, the Jefferson Airplane, Led Zeppelin, Chicago, Santana, Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison, and Jimi Hendrix, experimentation with marijuana, LSD and various other intoxicating recreational substances; we were the White Rabbit and we were all ten feet tall!

▪ **Common characteristics:** curious, experimental, free spirited, individualism, social cause oriented, egalitarian; it was the dawn of Aquarius and we believed our generation would change the world forever for the better.

I was disappointed that no tea-baggers, birthers, or born again Christians had decided to attend. I'd heard rumors for years that some of my classmates had joined the political and religious right. I would have liked to have talked to them and maybe gained some insight into their beliefs and ideology. But that was not to be.

One subject I noticed was curiously avoided--our demise. Although everybody knew a classmate who had died, there was no talk of our own mortality. It was as though we were all in a state of denial regarding our own aging and death. Although there was much talk about retirement, healthy lifestyles, and leisure, there was none about old age and death.

As I drove home that night I couldn't help thinking back to the summer I graduated from high school. It was a simpler, carefree time when my whole life was still a head of me and anything was possible. Life was an adventure and I lived in the now. The future would take care of itself. I remember the three most important things to me were surfing, the opposite sex and, what plans my friends and I had for Saturday night? Now I spend my Saturday nights with my wife; everything else is pretty much the same.

*And I still don't have the right look
And I still have the same three friends
And I'm pretty much the same
as I was back then
High school never ends*

STUART TOLCHINOn LIFE



Is The American Dream For Sale?

Over the past couple of nights I have become addicted to Mad Men, a series about the advertising firms of Madison Avenue. I know I'm a little late, in that the show begins its fourth season right about the time this paper hits the stands. Yes, I know it has already won awards and Emmys, but I had never seen the show. I take it back. I saw one episode a few years ago and hated it. There did not seem to be any good guys. Everyone was corrupt, smoking like chimneys, drinking like fish, and acting like permanent high-school sophomores. Who needs to watch television for this; I see it every day around me in Court.

Now I have watched almost the full first three seasons and I have a different picture. The series is about the late 1950's and early 1960's; times of transition in America. It is a time of a new prosperity as the days of scarcity disappear and people find money in their pockets and are looking for new ways to spend it. New technology appears. Televisions are bringing entertainment right into the home. Furthermore, the rules are changing. Women are obtaining jobs that were formerly reserved only for men. People are confused about what the new rules are and what their goals should be. The change is so drastic that the generations can no longer talk to one another. The overall feeling is that the good life, the American dream, is out there somewhere and it can be purchased. Material wealth is all important and one needs more and more stuff to be happy.

All important in this new dream is the power of advertising. A special feature attached to one of the first year's discs informs us that the average person comes into contact with 4,000 advertisements per day. Who knows—but who's counting? The series is about the power of advertising and how advertising plants seeds in our vulnerable minds, creating cravings for items we never even knew existed a couple of weeks ago. Of course, marriages break up and no one seems committed to anything but maintaining their own lies.

I believe the series is intended to be compared to our own times, but in reverse. Now is not a period of new abundance, but is rather a time of increasing and seemingly never ending scarcity. Are we prepared for these new lives? Instead of children

being off on their own, more and more families find their twenty-five year old children still living with them. Respect between the generations is even more difficult as the older people have trouble clinging to their own jobs and job opportunities for the young remain scarce. Times are tough even for the young professional as they emerge from graduate schools with incredible loan burdens. Unlike the present, the wars in Mad Men have ended but with the Cuban missile crisis and the presence of "advisors" in Viet Nam, new wars are just around the corner.

The great similarity in the periods is that in both periods we have become our own worst enemies. We felt then, and we feel now, that we are inadequate. We need more. Then, the message was to buy more stuff. The Dream could be bought. Well, today our pockets are pretty empty. We all recognize, or should recognize, that as a nation and as individuals we have made mistakes. We have over-spent and squandered our prestige, power, and wealth. Furthermore, looking back on it, things were not that great even we had money in our pockets and could make the mortgage payments. We still wanted more.

Just a short time ago many of us were overjoyed with the election of our new President who together with his wonderful wife and family should really make us all proud. Still it is reminiscent of the 1960s when a handsome President and his beautiful family entered the White House. Soon great changes occurred in the area of Civil Rights but the safety of the world was imperiled and we suffered through periods of great national embarrassment as the war continued.

Who knows where we are heading right now, but it feels like we really have to walk fast to stay in the same place. Technology keeps moving right along and the impossible soon seems commonplace. My major fear is that we don't have enough time to notice what is personally important and are being manipulated into a pursuit of disaster. Maybe the major contribution of the twentieth century is the rise of advertising. After all, the father of modern advertising was the brother-in-law of Sigmund Freud. (I wonder if you knew that.) My hope is that we manage to maintain some clarity in our busy lives and stay free of the duplicitous messages that surround us. Yes, each of us must try and steer clear of the Mad Men who war against our most vulnerable place--our hopefully individual minds.

Left Turn/Right Turn

HOWARD Hays

As I See It



I can imagine the typical family discussion around the kitchen table:

"Dad, are we going to get something to eat tonight?"

"No, but someday your own kids are going to thank Senate Republicans for having blocked extension of unemployment benefits, thereby not risking an increase in the national debt they'd have to deal with."

"Gee Dad, that's swell. Those Senate Republicans are always looking out for us!"

Actually, that discussion is not going to take place - now that the sixty Senate votes have been acquired to resume payments, retroactive to last June.

Listening to Republicans tell it, though, their attempts to block the extension was, in fact, an employment program in itself. As Sen. John Kyle (R-AZ) said, "continuing to pay people unemployment compensation is a disincentive for them to seek new work." Why get a job, when you can live a life of leisure off your \$300 weekly check from the government (about 74% of poverty level for a family of four)? Media personality and former Nixon speechwriter Ben Stein has a different take on the unemployed; "The people who have been laid off and cannot find work are generally people with poor work habits and poor personalities." I'm not sure if Mr. Stein has anybody specific in mind, or if he's applying this characterization collectively to the 15 million Americans currently unemployed. If so, a whole bunch of people somehow came down with "poor personalities" from the time of 6% unemployment before the recession to the almost 10% today.

As mentioned in my column last week, Republicans insisted that the \$33 billion in extended unemployment benefits be "paid for," but not to worry about the \$678 billion cost of extending the Bush tax cuts for wealthy Americans for another ten years. When asked about this dichotomy, Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) helpfully suggested we could tap into the "unallocated" money from the stimulus fund. One problem is that the not-really-unallocated portion the Senator refers to amounts to \$362 billion, or only a bit more than half of what's needed for the tax cut extension. Another problem is that a third of that has already been "dedicated" - to tax cuts for the poor and middle class. I suppose that might make sense to some people - sacrificing middle class tax cuts in order to ease the burden on those already pulling in over \$250,000 a year.

There's also the matter of miserly reticence in bailing out American families trying to keep their homes and feed their kids, but not when it comes to a no-questions-asked bailout of AIG - which, at \$180 billion, was almost six times the cost of the unemployment benefits extension. Unless I missed something, there

was no such Republican grandstanding when the Federal Reserve shelled out \$1.2 trillion for the "toxic" assets the banks sought to unload.

Many of us on the "left" have complained that while Republicans approach issues with an in-your-face conviction, sometimes Democrats are too tempered by notions of civility and compromise. It's refreshing to occasionally hear the likes of Rep. Alan Grayson (D-FL), Harvard Law School grad and telecommunications millionaire who, before entering Congress, worked on exposing corrupt private contractors in Iraq. These are comments he made in the House Chamber earlier this week:

"Thank you. My grandfather, in the 1930's, spent several years of his life, every single day, went to the dump, looking for things there that he could sell. Looking for things he could take to the market and sell because there was no other way he could survive the 1930's in the Great Depression. There was no unemployment insurance back then, there were no state benefits back then. There was no help for the people that had no jobs. All they could do, like my grandfather, in desperate straits, supporting a family of seven, was to go to the dump and desperately try to find something that he could sell.

"And that, my friends, is the America that the Republicans are trying to revive. The America of desperate straits, and for them, cheap labor. The America where people have nothing, hope for nothing, and are desperate to live for the next day. That is what the Republicans are trying to resurrect by blocking unemployment insurance day after day, week after week, and now month after month.

"I've got news for my Republican friends; every single person who's going to receive unemployment insurance under this bill - is unemployed. Every single one of them doesn't have a job - and that's why they need this money. Now, I know what the Republicans are thinking; they're thinking, why don't they just sell some stock? If they're in really dire straits, maybe they could take some of their art collection and send it off to the auctioneer. And if they're in deep, deep trouble, maybe those unemployed can sell one of their yachts. That's what the Republicans are thinking right now.

"But that's not the life of ordinary people, the 99% of America that actually have to work for a living; that doesn't just clip coupons and live off of interest and dividends, like my Republican friends do.

"That's why we need this bill to pass, because of the 99% of America that deals with reality every day; the people who will lose their homes if this doesn't pass, the people who will be living in their cars if this doesn't pass.

"That's why we need this to pass. And I will say this to Republicans who have blocked this bill now for months, and kept food out the mouths of children; I will say to them now, May God have mercy on your souls. I yield back."

GREG Welborn

RACISM IN AMERICA



We have a lot to learn about racism in this country, about where it is really found and where it isn't found. Two of the most recent compelling lessons come out of the NAACP. The first involves the speech that Shirley Sherrod, an official with the Agriculture Department, gave to an NAACP conference. The second involves the NAACP's official policy toward the Tea Party movement. What both painfully illustrate is just how racist many black leaders have become.

The Shirley Sherrod story is an evolving one but, as is usually the case, the media focus is in the wrong place. A tape recently surfaced showing Ms. Sherrod telling an NAACP audience about how she didn't want to help a white farmer. She described him as acting superior, told the audience she wanted to put him in his place, admitted to not helping him as much as she could have, and then ultimately referring him to "one of his own" for help. To Ms. Sherrod's credit, she was using her experience with this white farmer to illustrate how she battled racism and how she ultimately overcame her own prejudices to eventually work with this man and save his farm. The media has focused on Ms. Sherrod's firing and now on the efforts by the administration to apologize for that same termination. But that's not the real story.

The real story is found in the NAACP audience's reaction to Ms. Sherrod's initial comments. As she is telling her story, it is not clear at all where she's going to end. Nobody in the audience knows she's going to say that her feelings were wrong. She's setting them up to learn a lesson, but one can't help but wonder why they haven't already learned this lesson. As she tells her tale, the audience can be seen nodding and heard intoning agreement as she accuses the white farmer of acting superior, admits to not helping him as much as she could and ultimately sends him to "one of his own" rather than do the job she was paid to do.

I, like many other conservative writers, had hoped that the election of Barack Obama as President would put to rest the lie that America is a racist nation. No other country, empire, kingdom or superpower has ever willingly elected a member of its minority to its highest position of power - and especially not by the huge margin that we did. Most Americans realize that America is the least racist country in the world. Among those who know this to be true are the blacks who have willingly immigrated to this country from Africa in search of freedom and opportunity. As if further proof were needed, consider that one of the most popular female celebrities (and richest woman in America) is Oprah Winfrey, that one of the most esteemed supreme court justices is Clarence Thomas, and that two Secretaries of State (Collin Powell and Condoleezza Rice) were black.

The NAACP's leadership recently branded the Tea Party movement as racist. This is despite, in my opinion, the absence of any substantive evidence of racism on the part of the Tea Party organization, its leaders or its members. I personally have been to several Tea Party events, and I have never met a more open and inviting group of people. Americans who simply want to reduce the size of government and the burden of taxation are willingly accepted without any regard whatsoever for ethnicity, origin, race, color or any other physical characteristic. Tea Party members are simply concerned for the fate of their country and the size of the debt that will be placed onto the backs of their children. Yes, they stand against the policies of Barack Obama, but they would do so if John Kerry, Al Gore, Harry Reid or Nancy Pelosi were president. Race has nothing to do with this.

Within one of our local churches here in the San Gabriel Valley, a black pastor accused me of being a racist simply because I didn't see him as a black man and didn't properly allow for the celebration of his "blackness." I had made the mistake of telling him and others in the congregation that when I thought of him, I didn't think of a black man, that I don't think of people in terms of their color or origin, that I simply think of them in terms of their character and quality. I had told him that I thought of him as an amazingly gifted preacher with a heart for ministry and a blessing to the church. In his view, and in the view of so many other black leaders, that makes me racist.

It is truly heartbreaking to realize that racism is in fact alive and well, and that today's racism is being nurtured and grown, among those who should know better, as a cure and counter to yesterday's racism. What Americans need to know is that racism of any type is a cancer in our culture. When one ascribes feelings, characteristics or beliefs to another group simply because of their race, that person is a racist. It doesn't matter whether that person is black or white, the descendant of a slave or slave owner, or a leader or an average Joe.

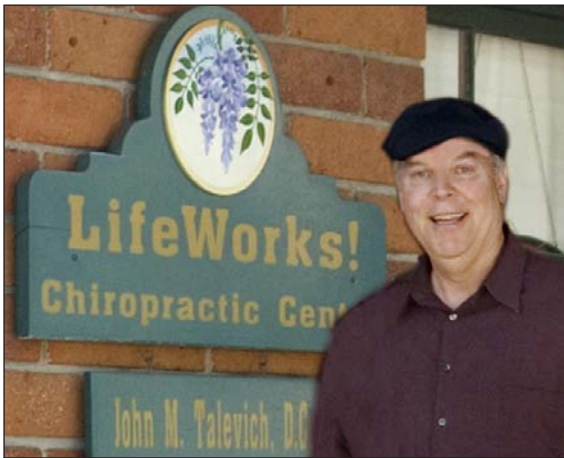
I'll close by loosely quoting Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, "the way to stop racial discrimination is to stop using race in decision making." That seems like pretty obvious common sense to me, and I think that most Americans would agree. I am saddened and shocked to see that racism is now domiciled among so many of the very groups that should oppose it in all its forms and incantations. As for me, I will continue to judge people, pastors and politicians by the content of their character, not by the color of their skin.

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.

YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Today's Subject:

ANDROPAUSE



Dr. John Talevich, D.C. has practiced in Sierra Madre for thirty years. His clinic, LifeWorks! Chiropractic, offers patient-specific approaches to the alleviation of pain and individually tailored wellness programs.

Men of “a certain age” (35 and up) may feel more irritable and grouchy, find energy more difficult to sustain, and even experience a loss of enthusiasm and mental clarity. Sounds a bit like most of us, doesn't it? Emerging studies suggest that we may actually have a good reason for our behavior: low DHEA and testosterone levels.

While “andropause” is a controversial concept, and is generally regarded as a gray area in terms of diagnosis and treatment, a high percentage of the male population can relate to the symptoms associated with it. Among them are trouble sleeping, a sense of ennui, and depression all slowly evolving with the onset of middle age. While the symptoms represent a vast field of possible causes, a decrease in the presence of DHEA and

testosterone should be considered.

So, what to do about it? First of all, it is important that we educate ourselves. There are numerous online websites discussing the broader issues of this subject. Additionally, there are products and services, including saliva testing, which are helpful in evaluating hormonal status. With the information gathered from these self-help resources, we can more effectively communicate our health care concerns and questions with our chosen practitioners. Therapies in the form of supplements, herbal formulas, and even testosterone replacement may be used to affect positive changes.

The purpose of this article is to encourage consumers to seek out and utilize information which will clarify and empower us. As is the case with many complex concerns, we consumers must find those professionals who will help us navigate the murky waters of our individual health care needs. Andropause, while not a disease, offers a model which may shed some light on common experiences occurring in middle-aged men.

These types of complicated issues often generate many questions, but in the end an informed public is an empowered one.

LifeWorks! Chiropractic Center

Individually Tailored Wellness Programs

31 S. Baldwin Avenue Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
626-355-4710



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

Angels Baseball Game

The City of Arcadia Recreation & Community Services Department – Senior Services Division is currently selling tickets to see the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in action as they take on the Boston Red Sox. The game is Wednesday, July 28th

at 12:30pm. The bus will leave the Arcadia Community Center at 11am and return at approximately 4:30pm. The trip is intended for individuals 50 years of age and older and the cost of the trip is \$20 per person.

For more information, please contact Arcadia Senior Services at 626.574.5130.

Nearing Retirement?
Give Yourself a Financial
Check-Up

By Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC.

As you approach retirement, you will quite likely be assessing your financial situation to determine if you have saved and invested enough to afford a comfortable future. Generally, financial professionals advise that to maintain your current lifestyle you will need approximately 70 percent to 80 percent of your current annual income each year in retirement, although your own situation may differ based on your personal goals and finances.

Taking an in-depth look at your finances and an inventory of your retirement funds approximately five to seven years before retiring will give you time to make adjustments to help you meet your goals when retirement time comes around.

Will I Have Enough Retirement Income?

Generally, retirees turn to these sources of income: Social Security benefits; earnings (including part-time jobs); personal savings and investments, including IRA accounts or additional employee savings plans; and company retirement plans.

According to the Social Security Administration, Social Security may account for only about 40 percent of your income in retirement¹. Personal investments and savings, company retirement plans and other sources will have to make up the remaining portion of your income—about 60 percent.

After calculating your projected retirement income, you also need to examine your current expenses and determine which items will increase or decrease, which will be eliminated and which will be added after you retire. By reviewing this information early on, you can develop a sense of whether you'll have the necessary income to cover your expenses once you retire.

Compare your expense calculations with your projected sources of income and determine whether you will have a surplus or a deficiency. At the same time, determine at what point in retirement you will need to begin drawing on your retirement plan assets. If, after comparing your expenses with income, you have a surplus, you are on the right track to enjoying a comfortable retirement. However, if you note a deficiency, you can make decisions now to help ensure that you will have a relatively comfortable retirement later on.

Should I Adjust My Asset Allocation Strategy?

Having a good understanding of investing becomes more important as you approach retirement. Examine all the investments available through your retirement plan and determine into which category—stocks, bonds or cash equivalents—each of them falls. Next, assess your level of risk. As people prepare to retire, they generally want less risk in their investments than in the past. Since your income from employment



will have stopped or decreased considerably and your assets may be invested over a shorter period, it may be more difficult to recover from loss. Therefore you may want a lower-risk investment strategy than before. Whether you intend to use your money over a relatively short period or spread it out through your retirement is another important factor.

Important Points to Consider

There is no set asset allocation strategy that works for everyone. Before determining which strategy best fits your personal situation, keep in mind that different people have different financial resources and expectations regarding how long they will be in retirement. Therefore, individuals have different risk tolerances and investment horizons. And remember, no matter what asset allocation strategy you choose, there is always some level of risk and no guarantee that you will not experience a loss.

Also, keep in mind that you need to look at your holdings as a whole. Consider your personal accounts, retirement accounts and any additional sources of retirement income that you may have. By planning the entire picture you will be better able to develop a portfolio that reflects your immediate and long-term goals. Your financial advisor can help you determine if your strategies are on the right track toward a secure retirement and help you find ways to maintain your position or work toward your goals.

1. Source: “Income of the Elderly Population Age 65 and Over 2006”, EBRI Notes, Vol. 28. No. 12, December 2007

Kyle E. Davis is a Financial Advisor with the Ladera Group at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney located in Los Angeles, CA and may be reached at 213-486-7157 or <http://fa.smithbarney.com/laderagroup>.

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS

FYI:

SIERRA MADRE
SENIOR EVENTS

AARP SAFE DRIVING CLASS

Next class: August 10 & 11
9 am to 1 pm both days
\$12 for AARP Members & \$14 for Non-members
Please call the Senior Desk at (626) 355-7394 to register in advance (10 person minimum for class to run) or for more information.

SMOOTH AS SILK

Join the Senior Community Commission for a silk painting workshop presented by Sierra Madre artist Rhea Jeffereis Vittal

Wednesday, July 21st
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
\$5 per person
Hart Park House / Senior Center
Sierra Madre

Participants will paint a beautiful Habetai Silk scarf which they will be able to take home.

No art experience needed but the class is limited to 12 seniors so advance sign-ups are required by speaking with Susan in person at the center or by phone at 355-7394

UPCOMING EXCURSIONS

August 19th - Sam Maloof House & Gardens Tour (Alta Loma, CA) with lunch before at Walter's Restaurant in Claremont; \$15 per person for tour & transportation. You will need to bring additional cash for lunch (entrees run \$10-\$15).

This excursion is limited to the first 12 people to register in person or online at www.cityofsierramadre.com/online registration.

September 16th - Long Beach Aquarium & lunch on the Queen Mary. More information on the September trip will be available in the next newsletter or later this month by calling the Senior Services Desk at (626) 355-7394.

Pasadena Highlands &
Accredited Sponsor
Bingo Prize

Pasadena Highlands, an independent and assisted living community, is proud to provide a special gift basket on the first Tuesday of each month. Accredited In-Home nursing care will provide a special prize on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Bingo takes place every Tuesday at 1:30 pm in the Hart Park House / Senior Center in Memorial Park. The game begins at 1:30 pm but those wishing to play must arrive 10 minutes before to secure your Bingo cards.

Join us on the 1st & 4th Tuesday of each month for your chance to win these special prizes.

Dial - a - Ride Tickets

Tickets can now be purchased at:

Sierra Madre City Hall
Hart Park House / Senior Center
Sierra Madre Library

Recipe of the Week:

SHRIMP ENCHILADA VERDE

INGREDIENTS:

1 pound peeled cooked shrimp (21-25 per pound; thawed if frozen), tails removed, diced
1 cup frozen corn, thawed
2 4-ounce cans chopped green chiles (not drained)
2 cups canned green enchilada sauce or green salsa, divided
12 corn tortillas
1 15-ounce can nonfat refried beans
1 cup reduced-fat shredded cheese, such as Mexican-style, Monterey Jack or Cheddar
1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
1 lime, cut into wedges

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 425°F. Coat a 9-by-13-inch glass baking dish with cooking spray.
2. Combine shrimp, corn, chiles and ? cup enchilada sauce (or salsa) in a microwave-safe medium bowl. Cover and microwave on High until heated through, 2-1/2 minutes.
3. Spread ? cup enchilada sauce (or salsa) in the prepared baking dish. Top with an overlapping layer of 6 tortillas. Spread refried beans evenly over the tortillas. Top the beans with the shrimp mixture, followed by the remaining 6 tortillas. Pour the remaining sauce (or salsa) over the tortillas. Cover with foil.
4. Bake the enchiladas until they begin to bubble on the sides, about 20 minutes. Remove the foil; sprinkle cheese on top. Continue baking until heated through and the cheese is melted, about 5 minutes more. Top with cilantro and serve with lime wedges. Makes 8 servings.

July Birthdays



Shahrazad Azrani, Eunice Banis, Betty Barlow, Cindy Barnard, Janet Cox, Martha Griffin, Betty Hansen, Dorothy Montgomery, Bess Pancoska, Janet Swanson, Linda Thunes, Barbara Watson, Anthony Gheezo, Joanne Gheezo, Beverly Turko,

Activities:

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

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

Monday:

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm: Strength training with Lisa Brandley. FREE class of stretching with light hand weights while you sit.

Tuesday:

2nd Tuesday of each month FREE blood pressure checks by Methodist Hospital; 11 am to 12 noon 3rd Tuesday of each month FREE financial consulting; 10 -12 noon call 355-7394 for an appointment
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm: BINGO; cards are only 25 cents each so stop by & play
5:30 pm to 7 pm: Yoga; \$7.00 - 50 & over. Please call 355-5278 for more information

Wednesday:

11 -11:45 am: Balance Class with Teryl. FREE

class designed to improve balance & refresh the joints
2nd Wednesday of the month: FREE Legal Consultations: 10-11:30 am. Appointments call 355-7394

Wii Wednesday - 1:00 pm or call the senior desk at 355-7394 to arrange another time & day to learn how to play. No previous experience or skills required and it is great exercise.

Thursday:

1:00 to 3:30 pm: Game Day. Join us for UNO and Poker with Bridge on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays; so please call for more information.

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm: Yoga; \$7.00 - 50 & over. Please call 355-5278 for more information

Friday:

1:00 pm: Ping Pong

Saturday:

11:30 am: Senior Club brown bag lunch and BINGO at 12:30 pm



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.

COMING SOON!



MEN'S WEEKLY TENNIS INTERMEDIATE LEVEL
NOON EVERY WEEK IN SIERRA MADRE
CALL 355-2335 FOR INFO



Clothes cleaned,
folded, & wrapped
in plastic
In by 12:00 - Out by
3:00

- Seniors discount
- Business Discount
- Student discount with ID
- \$1.00 per pound
- 10 pound minimum
- Comforters are \$1.75 per lb.



Why Not Let Us Do Your Laundry...

- Clothes are professionally cleaned
- Dress shirts & pants hung on hangers
- customized cleaning to your specifications

Or, Do Your Laundry...

- when it's convenient for you (24 hours a day)
- in a clean, safe, brightly-lit facility
- in air conditioned comfort



370 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. (626) 355-6213 • (next to Bank of America)



Chris Bertrand

One Of A Kind: *Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them* Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand
New England Style: 1000 Embury

As part of a jaunt waaaaay over to the Westside this week, I had the opportunity to tour a newly completed home in Pacific Palisades. Well respected general contractor, Andy Railla, just completed another noteworthy home, this time in the Palisades.

In keeping with the nearness to the ocean, he and architect Wayne Fukuda, principal architect at Lake Forest based, Archissance Design Group designed a New England exterior for the corner lot.

The home's shingled exterior, cupolas and the dolphin-topped weathervane provide pleasant homage to its location less than a mile from the ocean breakers below, without going overboard on the seaside theme.

The homesites in the neighborhood, known as the "alphabet streets" for their alphabetical arrangement within the community, are usually long and narrow. The home was raised off the street by a few feet, adding to its privacy. Crisp white pillars and dormers give the large home definition and depth, though the actual setback is minimal.

Fukuda has masterfully blended privacy and a feeling of openness in the 5837 square foot, five bedroom, four and one half bath home. At the suggestion of landscape architect, Gregory David, mature, 15 foot bamboo were installed on the interior facing lot line, infusing the interior windows and living spaces with the gentle texture of the leaves, sending a diffuse green light into the home.

A large, tall window on the stairway frames the bamboo almost as if it were a still life; a repeat of a successful concept Fukuda incorporated for Railla in a Brentwood remodel, sold in 2009.

John Everage's choice of interior color applied throughout the main and second floors, seems directly taken from the bamboo's color palette. One is never sure if the subtle green glow emanates from the outside vegetation or the inside wall color. Interesting, I found it calming

yet energizing, as the green bounced onto the ten foot ceilings on both levels.

Everage Design, Inc. chose the interior materials and colors, including blending the green into the kitchen marble, other stone applications and tile selections. The dark hardwood flooring makes the entire home feel organic, as if you were walking the forest floor.

The high ceilings allow for ample natural light to fill the rooms, adding to its airy, open feeling. Railla draws his signature meticulous attention to the millwork throughout from his early carpentry background. In this case, beautiful crown moldings draw the eye up to appreciate the high ceilings.

Upstairs, four bedrooms each open to the gentle ocean breezes with French doors and balconies, while preserving privacy with shingled half walls on the bottom. The master suite includes



two wonderful octagonal areas, for architectural interest, one in the sitting area and a second as a serene setting for the claw foot Kohler tub in the master bath. The ceilings in the suite are wood, with a slight sheen, bringing even more soft, reflective light into the suite.

An easy indoor to outdoor lifestyle for relaxation and entertaining is created with French doors opening to the stone and landscaped outdoor areas on the main level. Dining room activities can easily spill out to the front path and expand to the back and front yards, all within the fenced perimeter.

Downstairs, a 1682 square foot lower level is complete with a huge media area and pool table area. Oenophiles will be delighted with the 500 plus bottle, temperature controlled wine storage room with adjacent tasting room. Ever practical and perfectionist, Railla also built a sleek equipment room that allows easy comfortable



access to all the home's working parts. The garage can offer dual purpose, with rollup doors opening into the yard as well as the street, to provide entertaining or catering setup, ping pong game play or just expanded living space for parties.

This quiet charming neighborhood is all about walkability, community connection and interactive living. Just two blocks away the charming downtown of the Palisades offers restaurants, services, a Gelson's grocery and more. The Starbucks is the neighborhood gathering place for the significant local population that works from home these days. The local public schools are highly rated and easy walking distance from the home.

I've written before about the walkability index rating for neighborhoods in the country. According to Walkscore.com, the Embury home ranks a stellar 91 out of 100, with transit, grocery, bookstore, neat hardware store, tons of eateries and more, all accessible within a half mile or less walk

within this vibrant business community. For more information on the walkability of this or any property, visit www.walkscore.com

1000 Embury is listed at \$3,395,000 by Robert Radcliffe of the Radcliffe Group at Sotheby's International. More information is available online at www.Sothebys.com or at 310-255-5254/ Andy Railla, of A2 Railla Development, can be reached at 310-828-1602.



First time buyers... excited to find a good deal, afraid of overextending themselves, confused by all the conflicting reports about real estate. Well, that might describe any or all buyers right now, but those making their very first purchase may feel elevated levels of all these emotions. It helps to have someone offer you some guidance.

Don't be afraid to make your move now, regardless of what you've been hearing about the market. With affordability so high, you'll find a flurry of activity out there, so you're not alone in making the right decision to begin your home search.

Just try not to exercise excessive caution, or you may suffer what has been termed "paralysis by analysis." Your real estate representative will present you with all the facts and figures you need, and help you to interpret the data so that you can make a sound choice.

Now is not the time to vacillate about whether prices or interest rates will still drop. There is nowhere to go now but up. If rates rise to 7.5% (still historically low), the home's price would have to



Tips of the Trade:
Real Estate Revealed
by Luther Tsinoglou
**A FIRST TIME
FOR EVERYTHING**

be reduced nearly 20% to offset the difference in monthly payments.

Set aside your uncertainties. Chat with an agent who can help you determine your financial footing, and show you an inventory of well-suited homes matched to your particular goals.

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.



88 Auburn Sierra Madre \$575,000
2 BR/3BA Townhouse



DICKSON PODLEY



JUDY WEBB-MARTIN
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judy.webb-martin@dicksonpodley.com

30 N. Baldwin Ave., Sierra Madre, CA 91024



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BROKER ASSOCIATE, GRI, CRB, CRS, SRES
626 507-3034 Direct

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30 N. Baldwin Ave., Sierra Madre, CA 91024



DICKSON PODLEY
REALTORS

Open Houses

This Sunday, July 25th 1pm-4pm



162 Santa Anita Court,
Sierra Madre
2 bd, 1ba w/ 1bd, 1ba backhouse



331 Ramona Avenue,
Sierra Madre
4bd, 3 1/2ba

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Working on Common Ground

534 E. Norman Ave. Arcadia
Offered at \$898,000



Custom home offering 3 bd, 3 ba, a formal living room, updated open kitchen, family room, and pool. 2,558 sq.ft. on a 9,500+ lot. Contact us for more details!

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.

1619 Whitefield Rd. Pasadena
JUST LEASED * \$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.

198 N. Lima St. Sierra Madre
JUST SOLD!



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.

2305 Denton St. Rosemead
Offered at \$339,000



Beautiful and comfortable 2 bd, 2 ba home with an updated custom kitchen. Large family room, guest area, converted garage, extra large yard and ample parking. Priced to sell! Pictures coming soon!

Daddy,
should I sell
or rent out my
first doll
house?



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

www.tsinoglou.com

(626) 507-3029 • luther@tsinoglou.com



Downtown Sierra Madre



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Shop and Dine in Sierra Madre!! Join us on Friday Nights in downtown Sierra Madre and enjoy live music by local musicians, enjoy shopper incentives, earn prizes with your purchases, and enter our weekly drawings to win more prizes!!



July 16th - The Mellow Dz (Dave Osti/Deanna Cogan)
July 23rd - Mercy and the Beets
July 30th - Gem City Jazz Cats
Aug. 6th - Buck 25
Aug. 13th - Jean Sudbury and Local Talent (TBA)
Aug. 20th - Steve and Steve (Steve Vargas/Steve Ysaais)
Aug. 27th - Jane Fuller

www.SMFridayNightLive.info

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CITY OF SIERRA MADRE CONCERTS IN THE PARK

All concerts are free and are held from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Memorial Park Bandshell, located at 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

JULY 11 YVONNE PEREA GENRE: FOLK, BLUES, & ROCK FUSION
Sponsored by The Spero Foundation

JULY 18 GRAND JUNCTION GENRE: COUNTRY ROCK
Sponsored by Kiwanis and Friends of the Library

JULY 25 L.A. LYON GENRE: TOP 40
Sponsored by the Sierra Madre Woman's Club

AUG 1 ELVIS GENRE: ELVIS TRIBUTE
Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sierra Madre

AUG 8 MOJACAR FLAMENCO GENRE: FLAMENCO *Subject to Change
Sponsored by LA County Arts Commission

AUG 15 SILVER BEATLES GENRE: BEATLES TRIBUTE BAND
Sponsored by S.M. Volunteer Firefighters Association

AUG 22 JOEL PENNER JAZZ ENSEMBLE GENRE: JAZZ
Sponsored by the Sierra Madre Civic Club

AUG 29 THE CORDS GENRE: 80's AND NEW WAVE
Sponsored by Community & Personnel Services Dept.

Spectators are encouraged to support the local organizations that sponsor the concert who may provide drinks and refreshments. Please note alcohol is prohibited.

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