

## The Bell That Won't Stop Ringing

**Sierra Madre's City Manager's Salary Raises Few Eyebrows; City Clerk's Compensation Sounds Alarm**

By Susan Henderson

The recent discovery of the exorbitant salaries of officials in the city of Bell, has caught the attention of taxpayers throughout the country. In California, the state has demanded that all cities, regardless of their classification (Charter, General Law), post elected officials and city staff salaries online. Even in the city of Sierra Madre, information on the salaries of the town's elected officials and city staff are now under scrutiny. This week, the City of Sierra Madre put the "Elected Officials and Executive Staff Salary Information on its web site at [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com). (See chart below)

While the Bell City Manager received a salary of nearly \$800,000 annually, Elaine Aguilar, who joined city staff in August, 2007, is paid, by comparison, a mere \$150,000 per year. That figure includes the city's payroll burden for her position. Compared to other cities in the area and when considering the population slightly over 11,000 residents and the fact that the median income in Sierra Madre of \$88,008, Aguilar's salary is commensurate with the responsibilities of the job. In Signal Hill, a city of the same size that has a median income substantially less - \$66,283, the city manager makes \$240,372 per year. In San Marino, a town of comparable size (13,000+), and a median income of \$158,000 a year, the city manager makes almost \$200,000 per year.

The Sierra Madre City Manager's salary was not the concern for those who had viewed the salaries on the Sierra Madre web site. What seemed to concern some residents was that all elected officials except one receive a stipend of \$3,000 per year. The exception is the Sierra Madre City Clerk, Nancy Shollenberger, who receives annual compensation of \$10,800 plus \$7,500 for General Municipal Elections. Other city clerks in Monrovia and Arcadia, are paid the same as council members. In Monrovia, a city that has a population almost 4 times the size of Sierra Madre, the City Clerk makes \$4,800.00 a year. In Arcadia, whose population is over 50,000, the city clerk is paid the same as the council members, \$6,000.00 per year.

Shollenberger, who has held the office for over 25 years, has been criticized for her participation in the water rate fee hike protest as she was also the elected official responsible for the integrity of the protest letter tally. She has also been criticized for displaying campaign signs on her home and other property she owns during elections, something many residents feel is a conflict of interest.

The City Clerk is elected to a four-year term. Among the responsibilities of this office are recording the meeting minutes of the City Council, Financing Authority and Community Redevelopment Agency; advertising legal notices, codifying newly adopted municipal codes, administering oaths, ensuring that city staff and elected and appointed officials comply with State Conflict of Interest and Campaign Reporting Laws, providing notary services, and managing municipal elections.

For several years, Shollenberger operated from her home after being refused an increase in salary of \$350 per month. During that time, city staff was responsible for taking minutes of council meetings. However, in February 2008, she returned to an office in City Hall and resumed taking minutes after the council agreed to pay her the designated elected officials stipend of \$250 per month, plus an additional \$650 per month for minute preparation.

At that time, then Mayor Enid Joffe cast the deciding vote to increase Shollenberger's compensation and end the stalemate. Council members Zimmerman and Buchanan also voted in favor of the increase. Councilman Don Watts abstained and Councilman Mosca opposed the increase in compensation taking the position of previous councils that the position should be limited to the compensation mandated for elected officials.

Although the increase was less than Shollenberger had requested, (\$1,000 per month increase), she accepted the \$650 figure. Former Councilman Zimmerman then committed to waive his \$250 a month stipend and give it to Shollenberger. It is not known whether or not Zimmerman made good on his pledge, however, upon approval by the council, Shollenberger resumed her duties as City Clerk.

Two months later, Shollenberger ran for re-election winning by a margin of less than 15 votes.

## Construction Begins On New School Residents Concerned About Noise And Dust

The Pasadena Unified School District, with funds generated from the passage of Measure TT, has begun the demolition of the old school and construction of a new Sierra Madre School Upper Campus. Initially, the district's Master Plan called for numerous renovations to be made to the existing buildings, however, after realizing that it would be more cost effective and less expensive to build a new school, the renovation project was abandoned.

The current Upper Campus is located on approximately eight acres of land. It had 3 buildings and breezeways totaling approximately 40,410 square feet.

According to the district, "Implementation of the Project will demolish all existing structures on-site and will develop a grouping of two-story, small-scale buildings, totaling approximately 72,114 square feet. The total increase in square

footage compared to the original facilities is approximately 31,704 square feet. The main increase in square footage is within the proposed support facilities, consistent with a modern middle school. Included within the new facility will be a gymnasium that will be available for joint use with the City of Sierra Madre."

While the new school is being constructed, a number of portable buildings, trailers, are being placed on the lower campus site. When school opens in September all Sierra Madre School students will attend classes at the main school on Highland Avenue (Lower Campus).

Although a number of community meetings were held, information concerning the actual start of the construction was not sufficient. Residents were startled at the onslaught of trucks back and forth, the increased noise and the increase in dust at both sites.

A completion date had not been ascertained at press time.



Demolition crews have made considerable progress in tearing down the Upper Campus buildings on N. Canon Drive. (Above). New trailers, below, have been erected on most of the school's parking lot on Auburn.



## GONE.....!

### Sierra Madre's Only Fast Food Eatery Closes Its Doors



To the surprise of the town, on Monday morning a big "FOR LEASE" sign was posted in the window of the Kentucky Fried Chicken at Lima and Sierra Madre Boulevard. The site had almost become a landmark, having survived for more than 40 years by some accounts.

According to Sierra Madre Development Director Danny Castro, there was no forewarning and city officials were just as surprised as residents to learn that the business had closed.

In polling residents around town,

reaction was mixed. Most had never been in the restaurant. Others expressed their desire to see the facility become something other than a fast food restaurant, like a bicycle shop. And yet others were calculating just how far they would have to drive in order to find another KFC.

When asked whether or not another fast food chain could take over the site, Castro indicated that there was nothing in the existing code to prohibit another fast food chain. In fact, he noted, by definition, 'fast food' could apply to just about any restaurant that

has orders to go. What he did say, however, is that the city does prohibit drive-thru's.

The closure of the KFC makes it the 3rd very visible vacant business on Sierra Madre Blvd. KFC is just a block away from the boarded up Skilled Nursing Center. The former Steamers Coffee shop, further down the boulevard is also empty, however, permits have been approved for re-configuration of the Steamers site, an indication that it should soon be occupied.

Staff/MVNews

Sierra Madre		
Elected Officials and Executive Staff Salary Information		
Elected official and management staff salaries are public information and Sierra Madre has always responded promptly to inquiries. However, in light of the recent increase in inquiries, we've made the information easy to locate on our website.		
Elected Officials, City Manager and Department Head Salary Information		
Classification	Annual Salary	Benefits
Mayor and City Council	\$3,000 Elected Official Stipend	None
City Clerk	\$3,000 Elected Official Stipend \$7,800 minute preparation \$7,500 for General Municipal Elections	Mileage - Standard IRS mileage rate No other compensation/benefits
City Treasurer	\$3,000 Elected Official Stipend	Mileage - Standard IRS mileage rate No other compensation/benefits
City Manager	\$142,992	City provided health, dental, vision and life insurance; City contribution to deferred compensation plan; and auto allowance.
Administrative Services Director	\$90,648	City provided health, dental, vision and life insurance; City contribution to deferred compensation plan; Cell phone reimbursement; mileage reimbursement at standard IRS mileage rate.
Director of Development Services	\$90,648	City provided health, dental, vision and life insurance; City contribution to deferred compensation plan; Auto allowance and cell phone reimbursement.
Director of Personnel and Community Services	\$84,144	City provided health, dental, vision and life insurance; City contribution to deferred compensation plan; Cell phone reimbursement; Mileage reimbursement at standard IRS mileage rate.
Fire Chief (Volunteer)/Assistant Chief	\$80,064	City provided health, dental, vision and life insurance; City contribution to deferred compensation plan; Cell phone reimbursement; City provided vehicle.
Police Chief	\$102,132	City provided health, dental, vision and life insurance; City contribution to deferred compensation plan; Cell phone reimbursement; City provided vehicle.
Public Works Director	\$95,244	City provided health, dental, vision and life insurance; City contribution to deferred compensation plan; Cell phone reimbursement; City provided vehicle.
Library Director	\$95,244	City provided health, dental, vision and life insurance; City contribution to deferred compensation plan; Cell phone reimbursement; Mileage reimbursement at standard IRS mileage rate.

Note: This table will be updated periodically; information current as of 8/2/2010.



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## Weather Wise

## 5-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

<b>Mon:</b> Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 70s
<b>Tues:</b> Sunny	H 90s	Lows 70s
<b>Wed:</b> Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 70s
<b>Thur:</b> Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 70s
<b>Fri:</b> Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 70s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



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

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

"Summertime," the song immortalized in the Gerswhin class, 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, or even 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.

## Live from Burger Continental The Harvey Hyde Show

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## SUMMER FUN IN THE PARK



TUESDAY	THURSDAY
JULY 6 MISSION RENAISSANCE (Sketching)	
JULY 13 EATON CANYON (Nature Presentation)	
JULY 20 ARTS COMMISSION (Craft)	
JULY 27 MISSION RENAISSANCE (Learn to Draw)	
AUG 3 SIERRA MADRE P.D. (Safety Day)	
AUG 10 WILDLIFE WAYSTATION (Exotic Animal Presentation)	
AUG 17 L.A. ARBORETUM (Garden Craft)	
AUG 24 T.B.A (TBA)	

Come and enjoy the learning extravaganza and the GET OUT T, GET ACTIVE program targeted for children ages 3-10 years, but people of all ages are welcome. Programs will be held Tuesday and Thursday morning all summer long from 9:30 - 10:30 am at the Bandshell in Memorial Park, 222 West Sierra Madre Blvd. CATZ program will run Thursdays, July 8 - August 26. It will include sports and games and encourage to recreate during the summer. Remember to bring you sneakers, shorts, t-shirt and water bottle get ready to GET ACTIVE!

All events are free and there is no need to pre-register. For more information, please call the Community and Personnel Services Office at 626-355-5278.



## Saturday Nights at Bean Town

7 to 10pm

Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Ron Ellington Shy. Mr. Shy, nephew of the great Duke Ellington, was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as a former member of such legendary groups as "The Coasters," "The Drifters, and "Don & Dewey."

**BEANTOWN**  
45 N. Baldwin  
Sierra Madre  
(626) 355-1596



**STAY TUNED: Sierra Madre Reflexologist Despina Arouzman will be on KCAL TV Channel 9 on Thursday 8/5 at 6:00 am.**

## 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, 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.

## Kiwanis Presents "Facts or Fiction?"

At the next Sierra Madre Kiwanis meeting, former Mayor and long-time resident George Maurer will present a fun program called "Sierra Madre...Facts or Fiction?" George will challenge the audience with interesting facts about Sierra Madre, and also dispel some urban legends that have circulated for years. Did the Police Department have a detective called "The Grey Fox"? Did an elephant really run wild during a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade? Come to the meeting and find out!

The meeting will be Tuesday, Aug. 10 at noon at the Masonic Temple, 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. The public is invited and lunch will be served. The cost for lunch is \$11 per person; reservations required. Contact Harriet Lyle at 355-6786 no later than noon the preceding Monday. Guests who have difficulty hearing should bring a portable radio with headphones, and tune to 104.7-FM to hear the PA sound.

## SIERRA MADRE CONCERTS IN THE PARK: LA County Arts Commission Presents

**Mojacar Flamenco**  
Sunday, August 8th 6-8 p.m.  
Memorial Park - Sierra Madre

## Summer Evening Jazz Concert at Descanso Willie McNeil Slated to Perform August 12

Enjoy an evening of straight-ahead jazz with pop and rock influences when Willie McNeil performs Aug. 12 at Descanso Gardens. McNeil's show caps off Descanso's eight-week "The Evolution of American Jazz" concert series.

The concert runs from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring blankets and picnics (normally not allowed at Descanso) and settle back to savor the music.

Evening visitors can also check out the Camellia Lounge, a relaxing spot in the Gardens' Japanese Full Moon Tea House. Enjoy refreshing signature cocktails and appetizers as twilight falls. Lounge hours are 3 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays until Sept. 9.

Descanso Thursday Evening Jazz concerts are free with Gardens admission: \$8 adults, \$6 senior/students and \$3 children 5-12. For more information, call (818) 949-4200 or visit [www.descansogardens.org](http://www.descansogardens.org).

## About Descanso Gardens

Established as a public garden in 1954, Descanso Gardens is located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge, near the interchange of the 2 and 210 freeways. The Gardens are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Monday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday during the summer. Parking is free. Admission: \$8 for adults; \$6 for seniors and students; \$3 for children 5 to 12; and free for members and children 4 and younger. Fees for classes and programs include Gardens admission. For information, call (818) 949-4200 or visit [www.descansogardens.org](http://www.descansogardens.org). Descanso Gardens is accredited by the American Association of Museums.

## Sierra Madre's Friday Night Live - Shoppers/Merchants Benefitting as Friday Night Live Continues

Friday Night Live continued last week with a well-received performance by the 16-piece Jazz/Swing band Gem City Jazz Cats. This Friday features a pop/rock performance by Buck 25.

Come down and enjoy live music in Kersting Court each Friday Night from 6:30 to 9pm, take advantage of shoppers' incentives and receive gifts with minimum purchases, and for some lucky shoppers, win great prizes at drawings that will be held weekly at the Sierra Madre Farmer's Market.

Spend \$35, \$50 or \$75 dollars in a participating retail store, or \$50, \$75 or \$100 in a participating restaurant, and you'll receive a tote bag of gifts. Sixteen local shops and restaurants are participating. The more you spend, the more you'll get in your tote bag. Plus, thanks to the generosity of local businesses, there are more than 50 drawing prizes totaling more than \$1700 in value to be given away during Friday Night Live's seven week run. Gold Sponsor Santa Anita Park donated a pair of tickets to Oak Tree for every tote bag we give out, and several four-packs to be used as drawing prizes.

Last week, shoppers from Pasadena, Arcadia, Bakersfield and Sierra Madre spent

an average of more than \$75 at participating local shops such as Baldwin Jewelers, Iris Intrigue, Savor the Flavor, Casa del Rey, Corfu, and Ugo's. In return, they received tote bags and were entered in the drawings. Prizes for this week's shopper drawing include \$40 gift certificate to Corfu, \$25 gift certificate to Butterfly Effect Day Spa, four tickets to the upcoming Oak Tree meet at Santa Anita Park, two tickets to the Sierra Madre Playhouse, a music CD donated by Mailbox & Postal, and a \$25 gift certificate for Fluff and Fold services at Drop a Load Laundry in Sierra Madre.

Friday Night Live is presented each summer by the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with local businesses and with help this year from Gold Sponsor Santa Anita Park and Bronze Sponsor Mountain Views News. This year's event is being held Friday evenings from July 16th through Aug. 27th in downtown Sierra Madre, from 6:30 to 9pm.

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

## September is National Preparedness Month

**Save The Date - Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00 - 3:00 -- Memorial Park**

**Sierra Madre Family Preparedness Festival**

Participants Include:

Sierra Madre Police Department

Sierra Madre Fire Department

Sierra Madre Senior Commission

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September 2010 | [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)



## Coming to Sierra Madre Playhouse!

Two Sunday Performances: Aug 22nd at 3 pm & Aug 29th at 6pm

## Satin Dolls

A Musical Tribute to Jazz Vocalists

Experience the elegance of  
a bygone musical era as  
the theatre is transformed  
into a musical time capsule  
featuring performances  
by legendary jazz vocalists  
Dinah Washington,  
Sarah Vaughn, Nina Simone  
and Carmen McRae  
to the backdrop of a live jazz trio.

**Admission \$30**

Group discounts six or more

Tickets & Info Available at:

**[instrumentalwomen.com](http://instrumentalwomen.com)**

**or (626) 305-7338 or**

**[sierramadreplayhouse.org](http://sierramadreplayhouse.org)**

Written and performed by  
vocalist extraordinaire

**Ms. Phyllis Battle**

Director, Lady Walquer  
Music Director, Vanessa Burch  
Announcer, James Janisse

Media Sponsor



Produced by



The Instrumental Women Project is nonprofit affiliate program of the Pasadena Arts Council.



## REMEMBRANCE

### Sixty Year Resident of Sierra Madre, Frank Saumur Passes

Francis E. "Frank" Saumur, resident of Sierra Madre since 1950, died at his home on July 26, 2010 at the age of 88. Frank was born the 5<sup>th</sup> of 6 children to Philip Francis Saumur and Euphemia Hamel Saumur in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He grew up on the family's 640 acre farm and moved to Southern California along with a brother, sister, and their families in 1940 to work in the aircraft industry. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and married Marcella Hoover, daughter of Alfred Hoover and Eva Schlueter Hoover, in February 1944. In 1950 Frank and Marcella built their home in Sierra Madre and shortly thereafter started their plumbing company, Sierra Plumbing and Heating (later Saumur Associates, Inc.) Frank was an active member of St. Rita Catholic Church and a strong supporter of Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center. Frank leaves behind Marcella, his wife of 66 years, daughters Joan Saumur of Walnut Creek, CA, Kathleen Saumur Roach of West Linn, OR, and Carol Saumur of Sierra Madre, brothers Joe and Paul Saumur, as well as grandsons, great granddaughters and numerous nieces and nephews. Funeral Mass was held on July 31, 2010 at St. Rita Catholic Church in Sierra Madre. Interment was at Sierra Madre Pioneer Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center, 700 N. Sunnyside Ave., Sierra Madre, CA 91024.



### Jazz Theatre Extraordinaire Phyllis Battle To Perform "Satin Dolls" at Sierra Madre Playhouse

By La Quetta Shamblee



Phyllis Battle is synonymous with jazz mastery among her peers. Her signature, scripted performances include historical facts delicately intertwined with jazz vocals and music, and her latest work, "Satin Dolls," is a tribute to jazz divas, Sarah Vaughn, Dinah Washington, Carmen McRae and Nina Simone. Phyllis will bring them to life with renditions of some of their most familiar songs, with costume changes and nuances to capture their personalities. *Two performances are scheduled to take place at the Sierra Madre Playhouse on consecutive Sunday afternoons (August 22 & 29).*

As a child, Phyllis Battle would frequent the Apollo Theatre on 125<sup>th</sup> Street in Harlem, and amidst the razzle and dazzle of the talent onstage, she was always most intrigued by the jazz singers. When she was a teenager, her cousins entered her in Amateur Night at the Apollo where she placed as a finalist.

Phyllis moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career as a professional singer and worked as a secretary to make ends meet. Soon, she found herself touring as a background singer for Frank and Nancy Sinatra, Rita Coolidge, Donna Summers and others. She

later joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension, touring and recording for sixteen years.

Throughout her adventurous career providing a vocal backdrop for many prominent entertainers, Phyllis also enjoyed an impressive career as a solo artist, which has been her focus in recent years. Phyllis's CD, Night Flight, was produced by jazz greats, pianist Cedar Walton and the late drummer, Billy Higgins.

Phyllis was the artistic director for the critically-acclaimed Instrumental Women Project's Annual "Lady Jazz" Series at the Ford Amphitheatre during its first four years. Her special brand of scripted concerts was key in garnering a "Best Live Jazz Performance of The Year" distinction by the L.A. Times, followed by five annual consecutive "Best Bets" designations as the recommended weekend jazz venue. In 2006, she sang for an entourage of international dignitaries attending the celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary reign of the King of Thailand. Within days after returning to the U.S., was the opening act for Pancho Sanchez.

"For a small theatre, this one is among the most impressive I've ever seen throughout my travels," says Battle. The transformation of the Sierra Madre Playhouse into an entertainment time capsule will be complete when jazz radio host, James Janisse embodies bygone announcers to introduce Phyllis's creative tributes to Sarah Vaughan, Dinah Washington, Nina Simone and Carmen McRae. Pianist, Vanessa Burch who has performed with Natalie Cole, Aretha Franklin and other prominent artists is the musical director, leading a jazz trio with bassist Michael Saucier and drummer Quinton Dennard.

"Satin Dolls" is directed by Lady Walquer, a professional dancer and choreographer who has entertained and taught around the world. Her film credits include The Color Purple and she has also performed with her brother entertainer-actor Ben Vereen, as well as Harry Belafonte and Miriam Makeba.

*Satin Dolls is produced by The Instrumental Women Project, a member agency of the Pasadena Art Council's EMERGE program that serves as a nonprofit umbrella for local arts agencies. THE Facts: August 22 at 3pm & 29 at 6pm. Tickets: \$30, include after-show reception with a complimentary tasting sponsored by luxury liqueur company Carnivo. For info, tickets and group discounts: [www.instrumentalwomen.com](http://www.instrumentalwomen.com) or (626) 305-7338.*

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[SierraMLaw@cs.com](mailto:SierraMLaw@cs.com)

### Sierra Madre

### Tickets Available Today for Taste of Sierra Madre on September 11



Paul at Best Buy Drugs in Kersting Court is all smiles as he places the Taste of Sierra Madre Poster in his Pharmacy window.

Sample the food, fun, fine arts and music that make Sierra Madre so special... including favorite specialties from many local restaurants and gourmet food purveyors! This year's fundraising recipients will be both local and far reaching, funding expanded arts programming offered through the Sierra Madre Youth Activity Center and cleft palate surgeries for children and adults who would otherwise not receive this care through the nonprofit Rotaplast Foundation.

A day of food, fun and the fine arts will include a morning tour of local "Coolest Kitchens," restaurant and culinary stations from local businesses beginning midday, a chef demonstration and talk about making healthy food fun and appealing for children, children's essay and art contest awards plus a fun, Sierra Madre Fire Department

vs. Police Department cook-off. A wide variety of professional, live music will fill Kersting Court throughout the day. Check the event website for the latest news on local and national talent performing that day. Noted restaurant critic and television personality, Peter Dills will be part of the day's festivities.

For a taste of life here in Sierra Madre, local private and public schools plus service clubs such as Kiwanis and the Chamber of Commerce will share samples of their own offerings. A closing musical event will bring local singers together for patriotic songs in a memorial of 9-11.

Now is the last chance for Sierra Madre students to participate in the art and essay contests being held in conjunction with the event. K-12 residents and those who attend school in Sierra Madre, La Salle and Pasadena

High Schools are invited to submit artwork and essays until August 23. Contest rules and submission forms are available at the website.

Tickets are now on sale at Savor the Flavor, Best Buy Drugs, The Bottle Shot and Belles Nest, all in downtown Sierra Madre. All access VIP tickets including the morning's Coolest Kitchens tour (an adults only, presale only event) and all Kersting Court events on Sept 11 will be \$35. Kersting Court Only Event tickets will be \$20 presale before Sept. 10. Same day tickets will be \$25. For more information or to sign up as a sponsor, please visit the event website, [www.ATasteOfSierraMadre.com](http://www.ATasteOfSierraMadre.com) or contact event chair, Tom Brady of The Destination Group at 626-355-3471.

### Arcadia

#### City to trap killer coyotes

Amid a flurry of reports of coyotes showing up in many different parts of Arcadia and killing and injuring many dogs and cats, the City Council on Tuesday directed staff to hire Animal Pest Management (APM) at a cost of \$30,000 per year to conduct a trapping program similar to what was done in Arcadia a few years ago. APM will trap for up to one year in 10-day sessions in the areas most impacted, according to Linda Garcia, the City's Communications, Marketing and Special Projects Manager. According to state law, the trapped coyotes will be euthanized by lethal injection

since the City is prohibited from relocating wild animals.

The City is in the process of getting the contract and insurance documents in place and expects to begin the program in the next couple of weeks, she said.

A July 23 news report at ArcadiasBest.com of two dogs and a cat being killed by a coyote within a few days of each other on San Antonio Road and nearby streets between Huntington Drive and Colorado Blvd. prompted a handful of comments by readers who reported spotting coyotes and dead cats and dogs in south Arcadia last week

and for several months on 4th Street between Camino Real and Duarte Road, near Camino Real and El Monte Ave., and even south of Longden on Palm Drive near El Monte Ave.

Arcadia, which had the trapping program in place until a couple years ago when it was scrapped due to budget cutbacks, has received dozens of complaints in the past couple of weeks and will thus reinstitute the program.

The City also posted general information on its website about precautions regarding wildlife in the City.

*Story Courtesy Arcadias Best*

### Dreier, McKeon, Schiff Lead Bipartisan Request for Full GAO Report on 2009 Station Fire

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman David Dreier (R-CA), Congressman Buck McKeon (R-CA) and Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA) are leading several of their California colleagues today in requesting the Government Accountability Office perform a full investigation of the Station Fire Incident from its inception on August 26, 2009 to its containment on October 16, 2009. The bipartisan request comes as news reports indicate that critical Forest Service dispatch recordings from the start of the fire, which claimed two lives and resulted in the destruction of numerous homes and structures, were withheld from federal teams that have already conducted reviews of the Station Fire Incident.

Joining Congressmen Dreier, McKeon and Schiff in requesting the independent

investigation are Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA) and Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-CA). The letter states in part: "Both the Forest Service and Los Angeles County Fire Department have conducted reviews of the fire and the response from both of these agencies. However, we have learned today that critical Forest Service dispatch recordings from the start of the fire were withheld from federal review teams. This casts a dark cloud over the findings of the review panel and immediately warrants an independent review of the Station Fire response."

"Our purpose for this review is to ensure that all actions in the response to the fire were taken swiftly, properly and competently. Our constituents must know that every possible,

reasonable and proper action was taken to fight the fire, and if there were instances where the proper actions were not taken, we must know why."

It continues: "Most important, we must establish what lessons were learned from this devastating fire. By identifying mistakes made and where different choices would have caused better outcomes, agencies tasked with preventing and fighting fires will be able to better prepare and respond in the future."

"Thank you for your timely response to this important issue for our constituents. As fires again are breaking out in Southern California, this review is timely and more important than ever to ensure the devastation of the Station Fire never happens again."

### Duarte

#### Duarte to Host Free Home Energy Performance Workshop Aug. 23

The City of Duarte will host a free home energy performance workshop on Monday, Aug. 23, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Duarte Community Center, 1600 Huntington Dr. The workshop will provide participants with money saving solutions ranging from quick energy-efficiency fixes to green remodeling or retrofitting options to allow homeowners to take advantage of the latest technology, rebates, tax credits and incentives. Participants

will also learn how simple home weatherization measures can be affordable and effective ways to achieve energy and money savings that can offset the costs of many of these improvements. While solar panels may be all the rage, simple, affordable improvements will eliminate wasted energy and increase home comfort. The workshop will feature experts from Hartman/Baldwin Design Build, an architecture and construction firm based in the

San Gabriel Valley. There will also be information about the County of Los Angeles new energy-efficiency and solar home improvement project loan program and Southern California Edison's Whole House Retrofit rebate program. All participants will receive a reusable grocery bag filled with energy efficiency information. To register, go on-line at [www.sgvenergywise.org](http://www.sgvenergywise.org) or call (626) 564-9702.

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# Pasadena

News From Your Community



# Altadena

For Your Community



## Meeting Focus on Planning Director Selection

Pasadena residents, business owners and other stakeholders are invited to provide input on the search for Pasadena's next planning director during a community meeting Tuesday, Aug. 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, room S249 at Pasadena City Hall, 100 N Garfield Ave.

City Manager Michael J. Beck, who will make the final selection, encourages Pasadenans to participate by voicing their opinions on the ideal qualities the next planning director should possess and the issues the director should be prepared to undertake.

"As we move into the application period for this position, I want to provide an opportunity for the community at large to provide input into the process," said Beck. "I value the community's opinion."

The new planning director will have an opportunity to present a fresh assessment of the department's business practices, systems and customer orientation that support the community's vision for land use.

Recruitment will begin in the next two weeks and will close in mid-September, after which a series of interviews will be scheduled to identify semi-finalist candidates. Beck will appoint a community committee to assist him in selecting three to four finalists. He anticipates appointing a new department director by the end of the year.

Assistant City Manager Steve Mermell has been serving as interim director of the Planning and Development Department. Soon the department's development responsibilities will be moved into the City Manager's Office under Mermell's oversight.

For more information call the Pasadena Human Resources Department at (626) 744-4366.

## Pet of the Week



Smokey, just look at this little beauty! She is just three years old, curious, and loves attention. She also likes to play and purrs when you pet her. Come meet this lovely and unique looking girl 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 A272378 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](http://www.pasadenahumane.org)

## Planetary Society Hosts Open House

By Dean Lee

Bill Nye, best known as, "The Science Guy," greeted astronomy enthusiasts Thursday night as he eat ice cream outside the new Planetary Society Headquarters as Star Wars music played in the background—all part of an open house celebrating both its 30th anniversary and move into the new building.

The new headquarters is just blocks away from the Tournament of Roses Tournament House overlooking the Arroyo.

Nye was also named the new Executive Director saying it was an honor to be only the second director in the society's history. In September he will officially replace Louis Friedman co-founder and Executive Director since the organization began.

In a statement Friedman said, "We are very excited that Bill is taking this position. He will do a terrific job directing the Planetary Society into the future, and I look forward to seeing where he will lead the organization that I was

## Commission Opposes Death Sentencing

By Dean Lee

Although Human Relations Commission members said Tuesday night they were in favor of making recommendations to the city council to support a resolution to end death sentencing in L.A. County, they also said the issue needed to again be put on their agenda for a formal vote.

The issue had been placed under public comment. "This has to be treated as an information only item," Staff representative Sonya Amos said.

Albert Milena, chair of the commission said in support, "The death penalty is not going to actually solve anything. It's the alternatives, education and jobs."

James Clark ACLU Coordinator for Death Penalty

## Officials Required to Report Salaries Online

State Controller John Chiang this week announced new reporting requirements for all California cities and counties, directing them to clearly identify elected officials and public employees' compensation. The information will be posted on the Controller's website, starting in November.

## The city complies

In a statement released Friday, Public information Officer, Ann Erdman said that the salary ranges of Pasadena city employees had been available for years on the Human Resources Department's webpage although numerous news

## Heavy Traffic, Large Crowd Expected For Soccer Match

On Saturday, LA Galaxy and Real Madrid will play at the Rose Bowl to a near sellout crowd of more than 75,000 fans. Heavy traffic and congested streets are anticipated around the Rose Bowl for this event. The Game starts at 7:30 pm.

The LA Galaxy, the Rose Bowl Stadium and the Pasadena Police Department encourage those attending the game to arrive at the Rose Bowl before 6:00 pm to help avoid delays. Those arriving after 6:00 pm can expect long delays and will likely be parked a long distance from the stadium. Those who do not arrive early risk the possibility of missing a portion of the match.

Fans are encouraged to carpool, use the free spectator shuttle from Parsons parking lot (Fair Oaks Ave/Walnut St) in Old Pasadena and most importantly, arrive early. For those early arrivals there will be a Soccer Fest in Rose Bowl, Lot H featuring live music.



Bill Nye greets new Police Chief Phil Sanchez during open house

privileged to serve for so long." Nye had been Vice-President since 2005.

Planetary Society Spokeswoman Susan Lendroth said the society made the choice to move the headquarters earlier this year.

"The society had been in a different location in Pasadena for 25 years, that was a Green and Green house," she said. "A beautiful 100-year-old building that like many 100-year-old buildings needed a lot of upkeep."

She said the decision was made to put more money into research and outreach programs instead of upkeep of the building.

Alternatives said he was asking them to follow other cities such as Berkeley and Palo Alto.

He said death sentencing in L.A. County was absurdly high.

"In 2009, Los Angeles became the national leader in new death penalty cases," he said. "We sentenced more people to death last year than any county in the country. In fact, more death sentences than the entire state of Texas."

Clark said this was costing money that could be used to, hire, or retain, teachers, police and firefighters. He added that, by race, Hispanics were the fastest growing in number of cases.

A draft of the resolution calls for support following 15 states and major religions in opposing the death penalty. It states, 130 innocent people in California

organization had made public records requests, in the past weeks, for some of the information.

She said the information comes "in the wake of the salary scandal in Bell, Calif."

The salary ranges have also been placed on the home page of the city website: [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net) (under FYI Pasadena) she said.

"I am committed to a transparent and open organization," Pasadena City Manager Michael Beck said. "It is important to me for the community to have confidence in that openness."

Erdman explained, more than 2,000 city employees work in 14 departments. The

Nye is also involved with the society's Planetary Radio Show featuring interviews with scientists and engineers on a quest for knowledge about the solar system and beyond said Mat Kaplan, Producer and host of the show. Planetary Radio can be downloaded from their website [planetary.org](http://planetary.org) in podcast form he said.



have been freed from death row after being found innocent of charges. Clack said one of which was from Pasadena. He said a Pasadena woman was freed after DNA evidence did not link her to a crime. She spent 17 years in jail Clark said.

Milena said that if one innocent person could be saved that supporting the resolution was worth it.

The resolution also recognizes that death penalty cases cost more than permanent incarceration, but do not make communities safer. It also calls to invest in resources in proven violence prevention programs.

Amnesty International USA Local Pasadena Group 22 was also at the meeting. There was no opposition to the resolution. The commission meets the first Tuesday of each month.

web page includes a database of job titles, salary ranges and descriptions of the positions. There is also a search bar where job titles may be entered.

She also said, Pasadena is a full-service city with 15 departments and an expectation that many employees, mostly at the management level, often work evenings and weekends without the benefit of overtime.

"The city of Pasadena aims to provide fair salaries for our dedicated and talented workforce," Beck said.

He will continue to pursue policies and programs that further open government in Pasadena Erdman added.



Rose Bowl

The LA Galaxy Fun Zone features interactive elements, and sponsor booths will provide giveaways. Food vendors will be set up, and there will be a beer garden for adult fans. Those arriving early may also tailgate on the Brookside golf course in a park-like setting.

For parking and shuttle information, or for driving directions to Old Pasadena or the Rose Bowl Stadium, please visit [www.lagalaxy.com](http://www.lagalaxy.com) or, [www.rosebowlstadium.com](http://www.rosebowlstadium.com).

Driving Tips: Those using GPS devices are likely to be given information regarding

how to get to the Rose Bowl. However, GPS offers no advice regarding real-time traffic or parking conditions. PLEASE follow Caltrans freeway signs to best guide you to available parking areas.

When freeway signs indicate there are several exits to the venue (i.e. Rose Bowl Next 3 Exits), avoid stacking up behind a line of cars in front of you at the 1st off-ramp. There is likely to be far less traffic at the 2nd or 3rd off-ramps, either of which will take you to the same parking lots in far less time.

## Annual "Welcome Day" Set for PCC



Pasadena City College will help introduce new students and their families to college life as part of the eighth annual "Welcome Day" on Aug. 27 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Festivities will take place at the Campus Center and Quad. Free Parking will be available in any student lot.

Incoming students and their families will be able to take tours of the campus and ask questions to PCC students and staff. New students will also have the opportunity to

get a jump on the fall semester by meeting professors, and obtain information on where to find classrooms, purchase textbooks, I.D. cards, and parking permits.

Campus tours will be given to students and their families in English, Chinese, Spanish, and sign language. Information on financial aid, transfer services, student affairs, counseling, and admissions will be available.

For more information on Welcome Day, visit [www.pasadena.edu/welcomeaday](http://www.pasadena.edu/welcomeaday) or call (626) 585-7458.

## New Seating Enhances Charm of Hastings Butterfly Garden



Newly donated benches and a chair shaped like a butterfly, along with large boulders arranged for outdoor seating (and climbing), are enhancing the charm of the Butterfly Garden created in May at Hastings Branch Library, 3325 E. Orange Grove Blvd. in Pasadena.

The public is invited to enjoy the playful outdoor seating, which has become the place for photographing children with their favorite books (which have been known to flutter).

The teak benches and dramatic winged chair were donated by The ARBA Group & SKCB Management Inc.

## New Members Appointed to PCC Measure "P" Oversight Committee

The Pasadena Area Community College District Board of Trustees recently appointed four new community representatives and three community volunteers to serve on the Measure "P" Citizens' Oversight Committee. The committee will report on the progress of the college's renovations and construction as funded by voter-approved Measure "P" Bond funds. Committee members serve for two years and can be reappointed for a second term based on a pre-determined

and complement the garden.

With the aid of District 4 City Councilman Steve Haderlein, community volunteers helped plant the garden that favors native drought-tolerant plants sure to attract Monarchs, Queens, Swallowtails, Painted Ladies, Buckeyes, Red Admirals, Sulphurs, Whites, Gray Hairstreaks, Skippers and Azures.

Other project partners include Pasadena Public Library, Pasadena Public Works Department, Barrios Landscaping, Magic Growers and local lepidopterist Jack Levy.

For more information call (626) 744-7262.

rotation schedule.

The five new community representatives joining Angie Mont-O'Brien on the committee are Nolan Pack, Scott Feldman, Kevin Strotz, and Shirley Burt. The three new volunteers from the PCC trustee districts joining Laura Olhasso, Annie Yu, and Charles Nelson on the committee are Jonathan Fuhrman, James Smith, and Bradford King.

For more information about Measure "P," call (626) 585-7258 or visit the Measure "P" website at [www.pasadena.edu/bond](http://www.pasadena.edu/bond).

## 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 17, 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.



## Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, July 25th, to Saturday July 31st, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 276 calls for service.

**Tuesday, July 27th:**

**9:08 AM** – A residential burglary occurred in the 00 block of W. Carter Ave. Suspect(s) entered the home through an unlocked front door and stole the following items: A Dewalt saw, Coleman Cooler, a soft cloth cooler, a Wilson nylon bag, two Wilson tennis rackets, and a plastic tool box containing several tools. The crime occurred between 4:30 pm on Monday, July, 26th and 8:00 am on Tuesday, July 27th, 2010. The property loss was estimated at \$420.00.

**5:15 PM** – A Felony/Battery Investigation occurred in the 400 block of E. Laurel. An off-duty L.A. Sheriff's Deputy called 911 to report that he had just been flagged down by a victim of domestic violence. The crime had just occurred a few minutes earlier inside a nearby residence. The crime occurred between 3:30 and 5:15 pm on Tuesday, July 27th, 2010. The Pasadena Police Department's helicopter was dispatched to assist in setting up containment as patrol officers tried to find the suspect. A male suspect fled the scene prior to our arrival and has not yet been arrested.

**Wednesday, July 28th:**

**12:10 AM** – A prowling incident occurred in the 100 block of Esperanza Ave. Two suspects were seen looking into cars. A resident gave chase as officers were dispatched to the apartment complex. The two men were described as male Hispanics, wearing long sleeved brown shirts and brown pants. One male suspect possibly had a beard. The Pasadena Police Department's helicopter was dispatched to assist in setting up containment. Neither man was apprehended.

**12:50 PM** – An attempted residential burglary occurred in the 00 block Monterey Lane. Suspect(s) cut a rear security screen and unlocked the screen door. The crime occurred between 11:30 am and 12:15 pm on Wednesday, July 28th, 2010. The homeowner was unable to ascertain if anyone had entered the home. No loss was reported.

**1:08 PM** – An attempted residential burglary occurred in the 800 block North Auburn Ave. Suspect(s) attempted to open a locked sliding glass door to the rear of the house. The residential burglar alarm activated and the suspect(s) fled. The crime occurred between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm on Wednesday, July 28th, 2010. The homeowner reported no loss.

**Thursday, July 29th:**

**5:34 PM** – A residential burglary occurred in the 400 block of Mariposa Ave. A suspect talked the resident into exiting his home. The suspect than distracted the homeowner, as his accomplices entered the victim's home and stole \$500.00 cash, a jewelry box and a credit card from inside. The crime occurred at approximately 4:14 pm on Thursday, July 29th, 2010. The suspect was described as a heavy set Hispanic, 35 – 40 years old, 5'11", 250 to 300 lbs. He was wearing a bright blue and white checkered shirt, dark pants and a green baseball type hat. He said his name was Jose. The total loss was estimated at \$2368.00.

**Saturday, July 31st:**

**10:02 AM** – A petty theft occurred in the 00 block of North Hermosa Ave. Suspect(s) entered the carport area and stole a battery charger and a green suitcase. The crime occurred between 8:30 am, Monday, July 26th and 7:30 pm, Friday, July 30th, 2010. The loss was estimated at \$214.00.

## National Night Out Brings Out The Crowds



Sierra Madre's National Night Out Event brought out hundreds of residents to learn about the latest in Safety Tips for the family. The Sierra Madre Search and Rescue, Sierra Madre Police Department and the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department all had booths.

Attendees were treated to dinner from In N Out Burger and ice cream from the Ice Princess, an old fashioned Ice Cream Truck.



## Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, July 25, through Saturday, July 31, the Police Department responded to 870 calls for service of which 132 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

**Sunday, July 25:**

1. Between 12:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m., two cars were burglarized in a driveway in the 00 block of West Naomi. Unknown suspect(s) entered the locked vehicles by unknown means and stole golf clubs, CD's, and prescription glasses for a total loss of \$1,320.

2. Three vandalism incidents occurred between 1:20 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Unknown suspects shot at victims' cars with a BB gun or similar weapon and damaged windshields and windows in the 00 block of West Naomi, 600 block of East Live Oak, and 1000 block of South Sixth.

**Monday, July 26:**

3. Units responded to the 800 block of Southview around 12:34 p.m. in reference to a deceased person. Investigation revealed that a 42-year-old male Asian suffered an apparent selfinflicted gunshot wound. 4. Shortly after 6:30 p.m., a traffic stop was initiated at Colorado and First for excessive speed. A record check of the 33-year-old male Caucasian driver revealed that he had 5 outstanding misdemeanor warrants totaling almost \$26,000. The man was arrested without incident.

**Tuesday, July 27:**

5. A 60-year-old male Asian was arrested for commercial burglary and check fraud at Wells Fargo Bank, 444 East Huntington, around 1:10 p.m. He attempted to open an account by using a fraudulent check.

6. A victim came to the station around 10:51 p.m. to report a strong-arm robbery that occurred at 1300 South Golden West. She advised that she was putting groceries into the trunk of her car when a male suspect pulled her purse from her shoulder. The suspect then fled in awaiting vehicle.

**Wednesday, July 28:**

7. A commercial burglary occurred between 5:30 p.m. on July 27 and 7:00 a.m. on July 28 in the 1300 block of Michillinda. Unknown suspects made forced entry into a residential construction site and stole over \$13,400 in tools and equipment.

8. Around 1:00 p.m., units were dispatched to HSBC Bank, 1107 South Baldwin, in reference to an embezzlement report. During a bank fraud investigation, a 19-year-old female Asian bank employee admitted to stealing \$2,000 from a customer's cash bank deposit. The suspect was taken into custody and booked at the City jail.

**Thursday, July 29:**

9. A commercial burglary occurred around 7:25 a.m. at Residence Inn, 321 East Huntington. Two male Hispanic suspects, in their 20's, followed a female victim into the lobby and then sat down at a table next to the victim. When she left the table, the suspects grabbed her designer handbag and diaper bag and fled in a waiting vehicle driven by a female Hispanic.

10. Officers responded to the 100 block of West Longden around 8:06 p.m. regarding a mentally unstable subject. Investigation revealed that the 25-year-old male Caucasian was a schizophrenic who had not taken his medication, and he threatened to kill family members. He was detained and transported to a hospital for a 72-hour evaluation.

**Friday, July 30:**

11. Two male juveniles, a 16-year-old African-American and a 17-year-old Hispanic, were arrested around 1:28 p.m. for residential burglary. The suspects initially entered a home in the 300 block of Monte Vista, but left the house when they encountered a resident. The suspects then went to a home in the 400 block of Vaquero, rang the door bell, and when no one answered, they pried open a window to the backdoor. A resident was inside the house at the time and notified police.

12. Shortly before 4:00 p.m., loss prevention personnel from Nordstrom recognized a female subject from a previous shoplifting incident where no arrest was made. The suspect was followed and was later seen concealing a pair of jeans in her purse. A private person's arrest was made, and the 21-year-old African-American suspect was taken into custody for commercial burglary.

**Saturday, July 31:**

13. A consensual contact was made with a solo male occupant in a vehicle parked in the 00 block of Alta around 1:35 a.m. The odor of marijuana was detected and a consent search revealed a baggie of marijuana. During the citation process, the subject provided officers with another person's identification. His true identity was later discovered, and a record check indicated that he had a \$30,000 outstanding misdemeanor warrant. The 30-yearold African-American was arrested at the scene without incident.

14. Between 7:00 p.m. on July 30 and 9:00 a.m. on July 31, a commercial burglary occurred at Vision 21 Art and College Prep Center, 411 East Huntington. Unknown suspect(s) smashed a window and stole four computers, five 18-inch monitors, and a digital camera for a total reported loss of \$4,200

### “Friends Helping Friends Prepare” An Emergency Preparedness Event and Ice Cream Social

On Saturday, August 14, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., volunteers working with the Sierra Madre Individual Emergency Preparedness Plan (S.M.I.P.P.) will be on hand at the Sierra Madre Public Library to help you develop a workable emergency plan for you and your family. Don't miss this opportunity to help ensure that you and your loved ones are safe and provided for, should an emergency such as an earthquake, fire or mudslide, occur. There will also be educational and fun preparedness activities for the youngsters starting at 4:30 in the Children's Room. At 6:15 we will be raffling off preparedness supplies, and holding the Adult Summer Reading Program Amazon Kindle Grand Prize Drawing.

The dog days of August would not be complete without a Friends of the Library Summer Ice Cream Social. Everyone is invited to drop by the Library patio between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. to cool off and enjoy a sweet, refreshing treat.

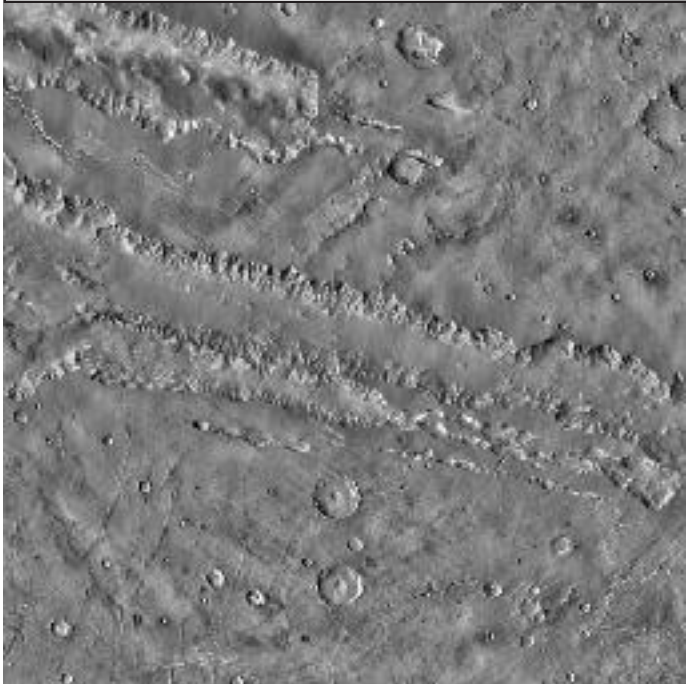
The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre. For more information, please call (626) 355-7186, or visit our website at [www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us). This program is free and open to the public.

## THE WORLD AROUND US

### Looking Up

with Bob Eklund

### Spacecraft Camera Yields Most Accurate Mars Map Ever



**THEMIS 100 meter global daytime mosaic**

A camera aboard NASA's Mars Odyssey spacecraft has helped develop the most accurate global Martian map ever. Researchers and the public can access the map via several websites and explore and survey the entire surface of the Red Planet.

The map was constructed using nearly 21,000 images from the Thermal Emission Imaging System, or THEMIS, a multi-band infrared camera on Odyssey. Researchers at Arizona State University's Mars Space Flight Facility in Tempe, in collaboration with JPL, have been compiling the map since these observations began eight years ago.

The pictures have been smoothed, matched, blended and cartographically controlled to make a giant mosaic. Users can pan around images and

zoom into them. At full zoom, the smallest surface details are 330 feet wide. While portions of Mars have been mapped at higher resolution, this map provides the most accurate view so far of the entire planet.

The new map is available to everyone at: [http://www.mars.asu.edu/maps/?layer=thm\\_dayir\\_100m\\_v11](http://www.mars.asu.edu/maps/?layer=thm_dayir_100m_v11)

Advanced users with large-bandwidth, powerful computers and software capable of handling images in the gigabyte range can download the full-resolution map in sections at: [http://www.mars.asu.edu/data/thm\\_dir\\_100m](http://www.mars.asu.edu/data/thm_dir_100m)

“We've tied the images to the cartographic control grid provided by the U.S. Geological Survey, which also modeled the THEMIS camera's optics,” said Philip Christensen, director of the Mars Space Flight Facility. “This approach lets us remove all instrument distortion, so features on the ground are correctly located to within a few pixels and provide the best global map of Mars to date.”

Working with images from the new map, the public can contribute to Mars exploration by aligning the images to within a pixel's accuracy at NASA's “Be a Martian” website, which was developed in cooperation with Microsoft Corp. Users can visit that site at: <http://beamartian.jpl.nasa.gov/maproom#/MapMars>

“The Mars Odyssey THEMIS team has assembled a spectacular product that will be the base map for Mars researchers for many years to come,” said Jeffrey Plaut, Odyssey project scientist at JPL. “The map lays the framework for global studies of properties such as the mineral composition and physical nature of the surface materials.”

Other websites build upon the base map. At

Mars Image Explorer, which includes images from every Mars orbital mission since the mid-1970s, users can search for images using a map of Mars at: <http://themis.asu.edu/maps>

“The broad purpose underlying all these sites is to make Mars exploration easy and engaging for everyone,” Christensen said. “We are trying to create a user-friendly interface between the public and NASA's Planetary Data System, which does a terrific job of collecting, validating and archiving data.”

For more information about NASA's Odyssey spacecraft, visit: <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/odyssey>

### Perseid Meteors Return August 12



**MEANWHILE, CLOSER TO HOME,** it's time once again for nature to put on its late-summer fireworks show: the Perseid meteor shower. The best viewing of this annual meteor display is typically before dawn on August 12. At its peak, the shower could produce up to 100 meteors per hour.

The name “Perseid meteors” derives from the fact that they appear to fall from the constellation Perseus, but they are not associated with it. The meteors are actually leftover debris from comet Swift-Tuttle. The Perseid meteors recur each year when Earth passes through that comet's debris trail.

For your best view, get away from city lights. Look for state or city parks or other safe, dark sites. Lie on a blanket or reclining chair to get a full-sky view.

You can contact Bob Eklund at: [beklund@MtnViewsNews.com](mailto:beklund@MtnViewsNews.com).

### WRITING SERVICES

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

Current work includes writing the column, “Looking Up with Bob Eklund,” in Mountain Views News, and writing newsletters for the Mount Wilson Observatory. I recently published a book, First Star I See Tonight: an Exploration of Wonder, and am finishing a second book, Winds Aloft. For writing samples and resume, see my web site: [www.bobeklund.com](http://www.bobeklund.com).

Bob Eklund [beklund@sprynet.com](mailto:beklund@sprynet.com) (310) 216-5947



# Pediatric Food Allergies on the Rise in US

By Justine van der Leun

Pediatric food allergies are on the rise in the United States, and it may be due to our Westernized lifestyle.

These days, it seems that most kids have allergies to eggs, wheat, milk or nuts. In fact, between 1997 and 2007, pediatric food allergies increased by 18 percent, according to a study published in the journal Pediatrics. In 2007, approximately 3 million U.S. children reported a food or digestive allergy.

In a Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology study, researchers found that between 2001 and 2006, visits to the emergency room for allergic reactions at Children's Hospital Boston more than doubled. Moreover, the severity of reactions increased sharply, resulting in more children experiencing anaphylaxis.

Dr. Susan Rudders, the author of the Children's Hospital study, suspects her findings at the local ER reflect a national trend, according to CNN. Though Rudders studied only 1,255 children, her theory is supported by the experience of other physicians across the country. Doctors at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia have seen a rise in the severity and number of cases coming into their emergency rooms.

Dr. James M. Rubin, chief of the Division of Allergy and Immunology at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City, has also perceived a rise in pediatric food allergy cases, though he cautions that it may be due to "better detection on part of parents, pediatricians and primary care physicians."

While nobody is certain as to why there seems to be a food allergy epidemic, theories abound.

Some doctors and scientists wonder if children should be exposed to allergens like nuts and shellfish earlier than age two or three -- the age many doctors recommend -- so that they can avoid developing allergies. In a 2008 study in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, researchers found that Jewish Israeli children were far less likely to develop peanut allergies than were Jewish children in the U.K. -- a difference that was linked to with the fact that while 69 percent of Israeli children ate peanuts by the age of nine months, only 10 percent of the British children had.

"In terms of diet, there's a lot of controversy: Should you avoid certain things when you're pregnant? Should you avoid things when breastfeeding or not?" says Rubin.

Another fledgling theory is that a Western diet makes children susceptible to allergies and illnesses. A recent study out of the University of Florence in Italy shows that meat and junk food may make kids prone to allergies. Researchers compared the fiber-rich diets of 14 children from a rural African village in Burkina Faso to the diets of 15 children from Florence. The African kids ate mostly grains, beans, nuts and vegetables that had been farmed or raised near their homes, while the Italian kids ate far more meat, fat and sugar. The scientists found that the African children had flourishing "good" bacteria in their guts -- cutting down their risks for obesity, easing their ability to digest food, protecting

against bugs and limiting inflammation. They also had an abundance of fatty acids, which guard against inflammation, asthma, allergic eczema and other allergic reactions.

But it's not just American and European diets that could be the culprits. There's also the popular "hygiene hypothesis," which posits that growing up in a sparkling-clean environment doesn't allow a child's immune system to properly develop. Modern medicine and sanitation have eliminated many infectious diseases but have also limited a child's exposure to immune system-building bacteria, which may ultimately protect a child against allergies, obesity, asthma, inflammatory bowel disease and autoimmune diseases.

"The substance in the immune system that's associated with allergies was put in people to defend them against parasites," says Rubin. "There are no parasites in more civilized environments, so it seems that [the substance] may react to pollen or food." Multiple studies in European rural areas have shown that the children raised on farms have a decreased prevalence of hay fever and allergic rhinoconjunctivitis, implying that growing up in a nonsterile environment can help ward off some allergies.

Ultimately, Rubin believes little can be definitively done to prevent children from developing allergies. Allergies, he notes, are hereditary -- when one allergic person marries another, their odds of having allergic children rise 90 percent. "If they're destined to develop allergies, they will develop allergies," he says. "Can you prevent them from occurring? The answer is no."

## Fun with Sign Language for Children at the Library

### An Introduction to ASL for Hearing Children

Emmy-Lou Thomas-Smith, teacher of "My Smart Hands" children's sign language classes, will share her expertise with parents and young children in an active and fun program at the Sierra Madre Public Library's Preschool Storytimes on Monday, August 16 at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday, August 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Thomas-Smith, a Sierra Madre resident, is herself hard of hearing, and teaches "My Smart Hands" and "Sing & Sign" classes using American Sign Language for hearing children. Although most babies start talking between 1 and 2 years of age, they are able to understand and want to communicate much earlier. Because they have control over their hands before they develop verbal skills, signing helps them express what they are not yet able to say, which has the added benefit of reducing frustration and temper tantrums.

Emmy-Lou explains, "Research shows that babies who use sign tend to speak and read sooner and have larger vocabularies. Signing gives them a bridge of meaningful communication while they transition to speaking language. Our mission is to bring to parents, educators and children a better understanding of the value of visual communication early in life."

In addition to the special presentation, each storytime will also include the regular program of stories, songs and crafts.

The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre. For more information please call (626) 355-7186, or visit our website at [www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us). This program is free and open to the public.

## Sierra Madre UMC Vacation Bible School

### A One-Day Praise and Worship Event

On Saturday, August 14, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., the Sierra Madre United Methodist Church will be having a one-day Vacation Bible School for children, teens and adults. Amber-Poteete-Marshall, Director of Christian Education, will take youngsters on a "Galactic Blast" adventure, combining faith and fun in a series of Bible lessons, crafts and lively praise music.

In addition to gaining a new perspective on the wonders of creation, children will learn the importance of being good stewards of the earth's resources, and the importance of developing a personal relationship with God.

Adults are invited to attend morning and afternoon Bible Study, and praise and worship sessions, led by Rev. George R. Crisp, pastor of the SMUMC.

Lunch, provided by Adult and Family Ministries, will be served at 11:30, at a cost of \$5.00 per person. There is no additional charge to attend the Vacation Bible School, which is free and open to all.

The Sierra Madre UMC is located at 695 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre, on the northeast corner of Michillinda and Sierra Madre Blvd. Sunday morning worship services are at 9:30 a.m., with an open Communion on the first Sunday of the month. There is ample parking in the church's lot, accessed off Michillinda. For more information or directions, please call the church office at 626-355-0629.

## Nature is the Best Kind of Nurture: So Grab Your Kids and Head Outside

### NWF Whole Child Report Examines the Health Impacts of an Indoor Childhood and Benefits of Time Outside

Some say it takes a village to raise a child. The National Wildlife Federation contends it takes a backyard, a playground, a park. Washington, DC (Vocus) August 5, 2010 For American parents who want their kids to be fit, focused and feeling good, the first step is out the front or back door. National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has issued a health report, Whole Child: Developing Mind, Body and Spirit through Outdoor Play, which reveals how our kids are on techno overload and it's seriously affecting their physical and mental health.

Reviewed by an independent panel of medical experts, the report begins with a day in the life of the average kid in 2010, immersed in technology. It suggests that Americans wake up to the reality that children today spend only four to seven minutes outside each day in unstructured outdoor play. While their parents spent free time in activities like a neighborhood game of tag, building forts, or climbing trees, the modern child's day includes far more screen time than green time.

"As this report reveals, nature may indeed be the best kind of nurture," says NWF

the report highlights the precipitously rising rates of childhood diabetes, vitamin deficiencies, asthma, and vision problems, all of which can be reduced with adequate outdoor time.

#### The Mind:

While not considered a cure, exposure to natural settings may be widely effective in reducing ADHD symptoms in kids, according to researchers. Sadly, children with ADHD may get even less outdoor time than their peers, as children with attention problems are more often held in for recess due to misbehavior in the classroom. Regular outdoor time can be a scholastic boon to children with attention problems, but research reveals connecting all kids with nature can help them excel academically. According to a March 2010 survey by NWF of nearly 2,000 educators, 78 percent feel students who spend regular time in unstructured outdoor play are better able to concentrate and are more creative and better problem solvers. Their test scores are better too.

#### The Spirit:

An increasing number of experts are recognizing the role of playing outside in enhancing kids' mental health by helping to better connect them to self, to others and to the natural world. Children who spend

much of their time indoors watching television or playing video games can become isolated and withdrawn, even if they think they are connecting on-line. Nature helps kids feel less stress and interact in positive ways. One study shows kids are more caring when they're around nature.

Doctors Understand Connection between Health and Outdoor Time

The medical profession is starting to take note.

"I would rather write a prescription for safe, outdoor play for my pediatric patients than see them five years later with depression, anxiety and obesity," says Wendy Kohatsu, MD, with Santa Rosa Family Medicine and assistant clinical professor at the University of California in San Francisco.

Whole Child includes recommendations for caregivers, healthcare

providers, local, state and national leaders, and educators so that, together, they can begin changing American children's indoor habits. Recommendations include asking parents to model "un-plugging" from technology and taking the Be Out There pledge to go outside with their children and advising pediatricians to write prescriptions for regular outdoor time for kids.

Some say it takes a village to raise a child. The National Wildlife Federation contends it takes a backyard, a playground, a park. The complete report, as well as recommendations and a downloadable poster may be found at [www.beoutthere.org](http://www.beoutthere.org)



Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President Jaime Berman Matyas.

#### The Body:

According to Deputy U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Rutstein, lack of outdoor time is a key factor in the childhood obesity epidemic and, if trends aren't reversed, may contribute to a generation with not only unhealthier but also shorter lives. "Overweight and obese adolescents have a 70 percent chance of becoming obese adults," he says. "If this problem is not addressed, we will leave our children a legacy of shorter life spans for the first time in history." In addition to obesity,

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.goodenschool.org)

### High Point Academy

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

website: [www.highpointacademy.org](http://www.highpointacademy.org)

### LaSalle High School

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

### Monrovia High School

325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016  
(626) 471-2000, email: [schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.odysseycharterschool.org)

### Pasadena High School

2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 798-8901 Principal: Dr. Derick Evans  
website: [www.pasadenahigh.org](http://www.pasadenahigh.org)

### Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109  
(626) 795-6981 website: [www.pusd@pusd.us](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:resseln@pusd.us)

### Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109  
(626) 795-6981  
Website: [www.pusd@pusd.us](http://www.pusd@pusd.us)



**1328 Oakwood Dr., Arcadia \$998,000**  
Located in the Highland Oaks area of Arcadia on a fabulous street, this 3BR, 2BA Ranch style home exudes charm & warmth. The large LR w/picturesque windows, features hardwood floors & fireplace. The cozy kitchen w/mountain views, adjoins the FR w/ vaulted ceiling & a 2nd fireplace. The private backyard w/covered patio & lush landscaping is ideal for entertaining. Award winning Arcadia schools, transportation & shopping are very close by.





This, That, and That Other Thing

THIS: I was out walking the Boulevard (Sierra Madre that is) Tuesday night with friend Cindy and her Maltese four-legged beastie who answers to the name “Sparky” and who should answer to the name “Sir Barks-a-Lot.” In the neighborhood of Charcuterie we ran into Scott, coincidentally the owner and Chef extraordinaire of Charcuterie.

Scott invited Cindy, Sparky and I to join an ad hoc think tank discussing new items designed to enhance his already tantalizing menu. In a nano-second Cindy’s shouted out her latest passion (at least the one with which I am most familiar) sweet potato fries. Scott said, “Done.” He was already offering them. Sparky kept uttering the words “chicken, bacon, steak, chicken, bacon, steak, chicken, bacon, steak.”

When all eyes fell on me I first made Scott promise he would not remove the Reuben sandwich from the menu (he assured me.) I told him I was satisfied and invited him to comment. He uttered possibly the greatest word in the English language... DESSERT.

No, not as in Sahara. Rather, as in yummy. He is making all his own sweet delights and has opened a dessert research and development wing of Charcuterie. Cindy, Sparky and I have signed on to be proverbial “lab rats.” Being a rather vocal lab rat, Cindy immediately backed Scott up against the wall imploring him to add banana cream pie and a HFS! What’s a HFS you ask?

HOT FUDGE SUNDAE! Cindy said build them and they will come! Scott said his would be the best. And on your behalf, the lab rat coalition is going to hold Scott to his sacred pledge. I’ll even buy one for fellow columnist, Stuart Tolchin.

There is also a lemon meringue pie in the works, cheesecake, crème brûlée and more. For the global warming crowd: Sorbet in a variety of flavors served with fruit for those hot summer days.

Keep your eyes, ears, nose and palate close to Charcuterie in the upcoming weeks.

THAT: Now, switching gears, I wanted to offer up a couple of deep cerebral thoughts that one might ponder while on vacation. This is offered as a service just to keep those minds working during their inevitable downtime. Ready?

Why is it called “after dark” when it really is “after light?”

How come abbreviated is such a long word? Why do we have to wash bath towels? Aren’t we clean when we use them?

Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?

Why is “phonics” not spelled the way it sounds? And for all you existential intellectuals: Doesn’t “expecting the unexpected” make the unexpected expected? Think about it till your head hurts.

FINALLY, THAT OTHER THING: A great deal of energy has been expended shutting down the recent proposed water rate hike. Now, as we all (should) know, a rate increase is ultimately inevitable and necessary. So, why not switch gears, stop complaining, and start expending effort into figuring out what we have to do? The city council has made a commitment to get out and amongst us to hear the will of the people. Let’s hold them to that pledge and start coming up with ideas.

I know. Maybe we can discuss it over hot fudge sundaes at Charcuterie!



TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

The Great Potato Wars

How’s that for an epic battle? Stickem up while I salt you. Certainly, when you take prisoners here, they are never returned. From time to time, I will sprinkle in the subject of comfort food or Americana. No one knows for certain which - mad genius or Betsy Ross - created the French fries, but Americans have certainly embraced the yellow strips of sunshine as our own. Just like the sun, I have cut back over the years, because I know that the better the fries the more likely the oil used is fattening. Last week I went to an Angel Game and, as a gesture of my thankfulness, I invited my host to have a beer after the game. He suggested the Gastropub in Monrovia. I have been to The London Pub a few times and I liked the upbeat servers, clean surroundings and (\$9) glass of “J” Champagne.

Going here reminded me of the question. Why can’t everyone, or at least more restaurants, offer the other vegetable, French fries? It has got to be the common and unglamorous label that the fry has been given. I think it goes something like this: the restaurant owner spends hundreds of thousands of dollars on their kitchens and furniture, while the ubiquitous fries is so conventional, so everyday, that they simply can’t envision that plain item on the menu after all the toil and expenditure they have invested to give their restaurant presence and swagger. This is not to pick on the Monrovia pub alone, but I was hoping for better fries. You would be amazed at the number of places that don’t have fries, or dare I say, Un-American plates of French fries. So, what is the best type of potato to use with a fresh French fry? I went to Vons and asked the produce guy that very question. He said most use a Russet Potato, so I bought one, for less than a buck and I am sure the restaurants pay less. That night I cleared the kitchen and began my experiments. I was getting them up to an acceptable level but something, just something, was absent from these fries. I called my friend Robin Salzer from Robin’s and he said.

OH!!! No!!!! Russet is what they cut and freeze; the best potatoes are the Kennebec Potato. All the restaurants that know their salt in the potato wars use the Kennebec!!! In’ Out uses them, as does Island’s. The secret is that they have less starch and water, which gives them more flavor when frying. Have you ever had Belgium fries? They are great but they will set the pocket book back, in fact (\$8) in my most recent order. They are Kennebec fries as well, but twice cooked.

Thus, the Kennebec is the winner and undisputed champion. If you want to know where you go for French Fries? Email me at thechefknows@yahoo.com. Can you pass the ketchup?

Taste of Sierra Madre

Join me on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 4:30 pm for the First of what I am certain will become an annual event. Join this inaugural event in Sierra Madre’s Kersting Court. Enjoy food samples from 12 restaurants and the Farmers’ Marketplace. Sample the Sierra Madre Police and Fire department cook-off at noon; witness live music on the hour starting at 1 pm with special guests, and patriotic songs to close the event at 4:30 pm. 300 Limited tickets for VIP Coolest Kitchen tours 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. Visit Savor the Flavor, Best Buy Drugs., \$20 General Admission. Phone: (626) 355-3471.

Listen in or lose out, this Sunday at 5 PM my radio show on 790 Talk Radio KABC



Ask jai.....

Ask jai is a weekly column that we 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 been applying for jobs for the past 2 years. I now have a gap in my work history. It’s obvious on my resume that I have been unemployed for 2 years. I don’t want my resume to look like I have not been doing

anything. What should I do? Jane P.

Dear Jane P

Employers have been more understanding during the past few years regarding unemployment gaps, given the current state of the economy and unemployment. I would suggest that you include in the Work History section of your resume any significant length of time spent doing volunteer activities, self-employment, care-giving, traveling, or any training that would be relevant to the position you are seeking. This section should be similar to the rest of your resume. Include the organizations name, your responsibilities and list of your accomplishments.

Q: I’ve e-mailed hundreds of resumes and cover letters over the past month and have not received one response from any employer. My background is sales and marketing. What should I do? Baffled

Dear Baffled

Some employers are waiting to see if you are pro-active and aggressive in pursuing a position with their company. This is especially true if you are seeking a position in sales and marketing. First step is to develop a follow-up action plan and timeline. Allow 5-7 days between communications. Send an e-mail to the employer stating that you are following up regarding the resume you sent and let them know that you are still interested in the position, offer that you are available for any questions or interview at their convenience. Then make a telephone call and try not to leave a voice message. If you have to leave a voice message be prepared to express yourself professionally. Next, mail a hard copy of your resume and letter to the employer. Possibly make another follow-up telephone call. Your communications should always be positive and not overly aggressive in tone or manner. Finally, decide when to stop contacting employers who are not responding. There is a fine line between becoming annoying and aggressive. Continue applying, reaching out and sending your resume to other employers until you find that position.

Q: I am invited to lunch by the company recruiter and the hiring manager for a second interview. Does this mean they want to hire me? Charles

Dear Charles

Employers usually conduct lunch interviews to assess your social and communications skills in a public setting. Treat lunch interviews as a continuation of the employer’s screening and interviewing process. Do not relax. Dress professionally and brush-up on your table manners. Do not drink alcohol or order expensive food. Be prepared to ask and respond to questions. Within 24 hours after lunch send a thank you note or letter to the recruiter and hiring manager.

There’s yet another breaking news story about the state of Net Neutrality, and some of the big players are yet again angling for advantage in what looks to be a deal of blockbuster proportions for all parties involved. The details of the completed or un-completed deal will be available for public display soon enough. This matter bears significance in that it shows in no uncertain terms exactly how the ever-murkier issue of Net Neutrality will be decided once and for all. The issue of Net Neutrality suffers from no shortage of available information, both public and private, attempting to educate consumers on the pros and cons of either position and, if one reads either position long and deep enough, one would be hard-pressed to decide against the arguments being made in favor of one side over the other.

What’s also becoming clearer is that with the FCC deciding to opt out of the process of forging a sensible plan whereby telecoms, content providers and consumers would all benefit from decisive action and clear delineation as to what each was required to contribute and what each could expect from a Net Neutrality plan, You, We and Us as consumers look to be the only parties involved that will actually be neutral, as in having no effect or input on any decision reached. The FCC was the only entity involved that had any real obligation at all to look out for the interests of the consumers in these transactions.

As it stands now Big Business will once again be crafting and enforcing the policies that will affect access to and content delivered on what is arguably the most important technological innovation in the last generation. They will most likely be writing the legislation that will pass into law concerning this issue and ,we as taxpayers, will eventually be subsidizing this private enterprise even though it has now pretty much evolved into a must-have public utility, as more and more of our telecommunications are swallowed by (and interestingly enough, sprang from) our telecom infrastructure in the first place.

The reason why this issue matters at all is that the freedom of innovation, access and content that grew the Internet in the first place is now in danger of being usurped by the biggest players in the marketplace. Their reasons for their insistence on a new state of affairs will probably sway an already-compliant marketplace into complying even further with their new demands, but we will end up paying for and subsidizing an Internet that costs more and delivers less. Now that the FCC appears to be opting out of the game, the consumer will have even less input into how things eventually turn out. But don’t worry. Consumers have long become accustomed to accepting less and paying more and will make the necessary adjustments yet one more time without too much fuss. The real shame in the matter is that, in this case, those who do care are too small to do anything about it and those who don’t care are too big to have to care. George Carlin had a rant about the real owners of this country and went on and on about how they always end up getting what they want. Unfortunately for us, this appears to be yet another case of just that.

SIERRA MADRE’S FARMERS MARKET

Wednesdays - 3-7pm

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



Cafe322 - 322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. - Sierra Madre, CA 91024 - Phone (626) 836-5414 Fax: (626) 836-5787 Our Hours: Mon & Tues: CLOSED Weds - Thur: 4 PM - 10 PM Fri - Sat: 4 PM - 11 PM Sunday: 12 Noon - 10 PM Summer hours in effect until August 31st. We will resume Tuesdays at that time...

Wednesdays:	Quiz Night Trivia
Thursdays:	Aug. 12 <sup>th</sup> Western Swing with Cow Bop Aug. 19 <sup>th</sup> Featuring Bruce Forman Aug. 26 <sup>th</sup> Barry Mosely & Dennis Lepron Jon Mayer Trio VR & Putter Smith
Fridays:	Aug. 13 <sup>th</sup> The Jack Sheldon Quartet Aug. 20 <sup>th</sup> The Legend GIL BERNAN and His Quartet Aug. 27 <sup>th</sup> Night Cap with Snotti Scotty & The Hankies Swing Dancing with Flat Top Tom
Saturdays:	Aug. 14 <sup>th</sup> Jazz Vocalist Judy Platt Aug. 21 <sup>st</sup> Mercy and the Merketts Dance Party Aug. 28 <sup>th</sup> Roots Rock Event! TREMOLOCO
Sundays:	Opera To Broadway with Danny Guerro and the Café 322 Singers
Remember: Café 322 will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays through August 31 <sup>st</sup> .	

Let’s Try Something New:

PURSLANE (Portulaca oleracea)

A versatile, tasty plant found world-wide by Christopher Nyerges

[Nyerges is the author of Guide to Wild Foods, Enter the Forest, How to Survive Anywhere, and Testing Your Outdoor Survival Skills. He has been leading Wild Food Outings since 1974. A schedule of his classes is available from School of Self-Reliance, Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041, or on-line at www.ChristopherNyerges.com.]

Every Wednesday at the Sierra Madre Farmers Market, Gaytan Farms is there selling produce. Often, they have the unique plant called purslane. Henry Thoreau was fond of eating purslane, and consumed it frequently during his Walden Pond experiment. He wrote: "I learned that a man may use as simple a diet as the animals, and yet retain health and strength. I have made a satisfactory dinner off a dish of purslane which I gathered and boiled. Yet men have come to such a pass that they frequently starve, not from want of necessities, but for want of luxuries."

Purslane is probably one of the most versatile and well-liked weeds commonly available. The plant can be eaten raw, lightly cooked, pickled, fried, in soup and stews, and the seeds can be ground into flour. Though not available at the produce section of supermarkets, it often appears at farmers markets.

In salads, use all the plant but the root. Wash it carefully to remove any dirt and sand adhering to this low-growing plant. Chop the leaves and stems for the salad. The leaves are mild tasting and slightly slimy. The thick, succulent stems are juicy and "crunchy." A salad of only purslane, with seasoning and chopped onions, is very acceptable fare. The stems are great to quench your thirst when hiking along a dusty trail.

As spinach, the plant should be lightly cooked in a small amount of water, seasoned, and eaten. Gently fried, either alone or with onions, eggs, etc., it’s a delicious entree.

The chopped stem and leaves also mix well in soup, stews, and egg omelettes. Purslane is not only good and versatile, it’s good for you! Dried purslane has been found to be about 30 percent albuminoids (protein) and 35 percent carbohydrates. 100 grams of purslane contains 2500 I.U. of vitamin A when cooked; .10 mg. of riboflavin and .06 cooked; 103 mg. of calcium raw and 86 cooked; 25 mg. of vitamin C raw and 12 mg. cooked; 21 calories; and small amounts of phosphorus, niacin, and thiamine.

In 1986, purslane was identified as being the richest leafy-plant source of omega-3 fatty acids, a substance that helps reduce the body’s cholesterol levels and reduces the risk of heart attack. This discovery was made by Norman Salem, Jr., a lipid biochemist (with the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism in Bethesda, Maryland).

Interestingly, rather than suggest people begin including purslane in their diets, Salem and his collaborator, Artemis P. Simopoulos (of the American Association for World Health in Washington, D.C.) studied range-fed chickens at a Greek farm which fed on wild purslane. The yolk from one large-sized egg from purslane-fed chickens contained about 300 mg. of omega-3 fatty acids (17.87 mg. per gram), the

same amount contained in a standard fish oil capsule, and 10 times more than what is found in a typical supermarket egg (1.74 mg. per gram). Salem and Simopoulos’ findings about the eggs was published in the November 16, 1989 New England Journal of Medicine.

RECOGNIZING PURSLANE

Purslane is a low-growing fleshy herb, whose outstretched, sprawling, prostrate stems are from three to twelve inches long. The stems are tinted red, round-shaped, and very succulent. The leaves are succulent and paddle-shaped. The tiny little flowers are yellow.

Introduced from Tropical America, purslane was in the United States before colonial times. Purslane is believed to have originated from India, from which it gradually spread throughout the world. Here in Southern California, purslane is not one of the early spring weeds. Rather, we find it sprouting up in the early summer, and it seems to prefer rose beds, fields, and even hard-packed soils.

If you’re still not sure what purslane looks like, go to any nursery. Where the herbicides are sold, there is usually a chart with photos of all the "noxious weeds" that must be eradicated, with the names of those herbicides which will kill them. Invariably, the wonderful purslane is found on such charts. Why? Because it sometimes grows in rose beds. As Walter Kelly’s Pogo reminds us: "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

RECIPES: Verdolago con Queso

This is a simple recipe. Collect one quart of tender purslane, including the stems. Once washed, gently boil for about two minutes. Drain the water, and chop the purslane into smaller pieces. Return the purslane to a skillet, and shred a half cup of Monterey jack cheese over the greens. Warm on a low flame until the cheese is melted. Serves two.

Succulent Sunshine Clean one quart of purslane stems and leaves. Cut into one-inch pieces and place in clean jars with lids. Add three sliced garlic cloves and 10 peppercorns. Pour one quart of raw apple cider vinegar over the purslane. (You can also use old pickle juice, or jalapeno pepper juice). Keep this in the refrigerator at least two weeks before using. Serve as a side dish with omelettes, sandwiches, and soup.

The Shepherd Sings at Noon

This sandwich recipe was sent to me from Greg Kirshner of Fullerton, Calif. It’s very simple. Using toasted or untoasted rye bread, add a few slices of good ham. Instead of pickles, add a small handful of fresh purslane stems to the sandwich. Add a mustard and horseradish mix.

Other - Chopped purslane can be mixed into your egg omelettes, added to lettuce salads, and used as the main salad ingredient.





## Mountain Views News

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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

## HENDERSON SUSAN



### The Stealthing of Sierra Madre

*Stealth (adj.) intended not to attract attention*

Several years ago as I was playing golf, a big shadow covered the area and everyone looked up to see if the Martians had landed. It was a weird feeling, being covered by a huge shadow that came out of nowhere, but in a few seconds, the shadow passed and we could see one of our country's magnificent flying machines. The sight was quite moving but the thought that it was upon us before we even knew it, was unnerving. Not a sound and bam...there it was. Well, in recent weeks we have learned that Sierra Madre experienced something quite similar. We were suddenly covered by a dark cloud that we didn't see coming and by the time we recognized it, many were shocked and disappointed. It was like the plot of a B rated movie. The town had been 'stealthed'.

The very organized 'protest' movement that collected signatures in an attempt to defeat the proposed water rate fee hike was nothing more than a political campaign that few people recognized. Many of those who were recruited to submit their 'protest' were not aware of anything more than the 'misinformation' that they were given. They were not aware that the 'organizers' of this 'protest' were actually a group of residents with a craving for dissent regardless of the issue. Involved and/or supporting this organized effort was every single candidate (except Bill Tice), that lost the recent election and their 'slate mailing buddy' who sits on the current city council. And, based upon the pronouncements of our City Clerk, it even included her, an involvement that many call inappropriate and perhaps illegal because of her responsibility to tally the protest documents.

Yet, on the other side of the coin, those who did not object to the fee increase, were not aware that there was a campaign against it going on. Yes, the stealthing of Sierra Madre was done very efficiently, designed not to draw attention to it. (*Stealth thing.... new word, not from Sarah Palin but from me. "Stealth thing as in flying under the radar like a stealth bomber."*)

Using the tried and tested dirty tactics method of instilling fear by suggesting that people would be paying unconscionable rates for water, signatures were collected very often, unscrupulously. Example: When one rate payer (business) signed a protest based upon a dispute with the city that has been unresolved for years, they noted an objection not to the increase but to the unresolved issue on the form. Within minutes, the signature gatherer could be heard soliciting support for the protest by invoking the name of the previous signer without disclosing the real reasons for gaining that signature. The business owner was quite upset.

Now, I do not make this up. I spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the 'protests'. So, when I saw the preprinted letters soliciting protests that were distributed (one from Former Councilman Don Watts - the only letter that had a name on it, the others were unsigned. It was also the only letter that had the correct amount of the proposed

increase.), I was shocked. One letter that was mailed to residents actually said, in bold letters, "*If this rate hike goes through, in five years your bill will be 140% of what it is now*", implying that the rate was going to increase by 140%, which is simply not true. You do the math:

If your current bill is: \$50.00 - A 140% increase will make it (in 5 years) \$120.00  
*The Truth:* If your current bill is: \$50.00 the most your bill could increase is 37% (in the highest category) thus making your maximum bill in 5 years \$68.50.

There is a big difference in thinking that your bill is going to jump to \$120.00 compared to it possibly jumping to \$68.50. Big Difference. Big Lies.

What was even more egregious is that these letters were sent selectively to residents and property owners that the 'organizers' obviously thought they could fool, and they went to extraordinary lengths to gather signatures from owners who don't even live in town. So while many thought they were participating in a local, door to door protest effort, it was much more than that.

You also had, and this is where it really gets strange, the 'organizers' of the protest, an otherwise an anti-development crowd, using the help of the most controversial developers in town - the owners of 1 Carter. Yes it is true, when those who organized the protest bragged about the signatures they had collected against the rate hike, they were proud to have the support of the owner of 1 Carter, which signed 30 protests, giving them more power than any other rate payer or land owner in town. I guess we won't have any more protests about the size, shape or burden that 1 Carter will put on the city from them since they are now best buddies.

Fortunately, when the final tally was done, the stealth campaign didn't fly. This time. However, if we aren't careful, at the very next opportunity, there will be another such disingenuous, dishonest and deceptive attempt to gain the public's support.

*I know that the intent of many people who signed the protest was not rooted in the 'sore loser' syndrome or the 'I must protest everything' syndrome. Many were just led by people they trusted but really didn't know. And perhaps that is the problem.*

In Sierra Madre, which sometimes has a reputation that it does not deserve due to the shenanigans (their favorite word) of those who have an insatiable appetite for chaos, we have to all take more personal responsibility for learning what is really going on in town. We have to actually open our mail, read it and question anything that the author refuses to put their name on. Dissent is a valuable tool in making sure all sides of an issue are heard, but as residents, we have to recognize what the real issues are and draw our conclusions based upon fact.

There is one good thing that came out of the stealthing of the city. City officials recognized that it is an absolute necessity to improve the communications between the public and City Hall. The other good thing, I hope, is that we now know to watch out for that dark shadow when it flies over our heads.

## STUART TOLCHIN .....On LIFE



### A View From Mount St. Helens

Well, here I am in Portland Oregon, composing away and hoping through some technological magic that this article will fly through cyberspace and find its way to the Sierra Madre news stands on Sunday. My wife and I are here for a wedding and thought we could rent a car and travel around the northwest for awhile. No such luck! These days, I'm afraid, must be well planned in advance. Almost no rental cars are available, or are only available at outrageous prices

As part of the wedding party we had reserved a room for a couple of days at this fairly high-priced, at least for us, hotel. There was some sort of group discount and the price didn't seem too steep. After the wedding the discount disappeared and it was time to find another hotel, or so we thought.

Coincidentally, my wife had just purchased a small lap-top computer (which I am using now for the first time) and she attempted to find a more reasonably priced hotel. Eventually, she found one which was still a little pricey. Before making the change she checked the comments about the hotel. The comments were as follows: Holes in the door; narrow scary hallways, blood on the floor, dirty toilets. NO,NO,NO. We agreed with the assessment and decided to stay in our old overpriced hotel. As a result of this decision or indecision my own viewpoint about quite a number of things have changed and this change, I think, is the point of this article.

First the hotel. All right it costs \$179 per night with credit toward discounts that I don't understand. I thought the price outrageous, but we're stuck here. Guess what? It's kind of wonderful. Every day there is a free buffet-breakfast, a free soup and salad, and dinner with free drinks including wine or beer. There is a free shuttle that takes you anywhere within the city and the free Portland streetcar that stops right by the hotel and whisks us off to more distant locations. I think I've learned that life is not always about bargains; it may be more about noticing what you already have. Now - no friends and no car. What to do?

Luckily someone in the hotel told us about Powell's bookstore. We hopped on the free Portland streetcar and in ten minutes we were at Powell's which happens to be the largest new and used bookstore in the world. The place is a revelation. It is so gigantic that they give you a map when you walk in so that you can find your way back to the front door. The place is a maze of rooms identified by color. I bought a couple of fairly esoteric books at discount prices and purchased a paperback copy of the 'Girl with the Dragon Tattoo' for my wife. As you probably already know, a movie has already been made of this book, along with its sequel and a third book has already come out. On our trip up to Portland it was necessary for us to change planes in Sacramento. I noticed several people reading the book in a surprisingly engrossed state in the airport. All right, I bought the book but I certainly would not read such popular nonsense.

After we left the bookstore we waited in line for almost an hour to buy donuts at this place called Voodoo Doughnuts. I don't even like donuts, but I saw this long line of people waiting at a hole in the wall store. I bought a dozen donuts and had fun giving them away to other people who knew about the donut, but couldn't face the wait. I felt like a hero. My wife didn't think wasting time on such a sunny day was such a good idea and stopped talking to me. Once we got back to the hotel, just to show her, I started her book. Now, I can't put it down. Still I thought I was missing something about the book.

I found out something new about the book on this unforgettable tour we took to Mount St. Helens his morning. Right! No car, so we had to go on a tour, normally something we avoid. We were the only Americans on the tour and had these amazing and surprising conversations with people. A Korean man asked why there are so many smart famous Jewish people. Never had I been asked that question--it's not politically correct you know. Another man asked why Americans buy German cars. These questions were combined with the viewing of Mount St. Helens and conversations with people who had lost loved ones in the tragedy that all happened in a few seconds. Suddenly homes, business, even forests and lakes were gone.

The thing that surprised me most, though, was when the man from Sweden noticed the book I couldn't put down and informed me that the original name of the book was 'Men Who Hate Women'. Suddenly my understanding of the whole book changed.....and so

# Left Turn/Right Turn

## HOWARD Hays



### As I See It

Last week I wrote about efforts to keep us divided against one another. Less than three percent of the wealthiest Americans (I chose that number because it represents those who'd benefit from the \$680 billion extension of the Bush tax cuts) feel they can fend off intruders at their banquet if we're kept fighting amongst ourselves for the crumbs allowed to fall from the table.

As Barack Obama put it at the 2004 Democratic Convention, "It's not the Red States, it's not the Blue States, it's the United States of America." On a more somber occasion, 26th District Democratic congressional candidate Russ Warner noted in a Memorial Day address that regardless of the backgrounds and ethnicities of the fallen, crosses marking their graves are all the same white color, and they all fought for the same red, white and blue.

Because individuals sent to represent us in Washington come from different regions, with different interests and diverse ideologies, debate is expected and welcomed on controversial issues. On other matters, the need is so clear and agreement so universal we expect them to come together and do what's best for our country.

There's help for small businesses, for example. There was (not enough) debate about the \$700 billion bailout of the Wall Street players who brought us to the brink of a second Great Depression. There's no debate, though, on the role small business plays in driving our nation's economy and creating jobs here at home. As candidate Warner points out, "The country's economy has always been saved by the middle class, who aren't afraid of rolling up their sleeves and getting the job done - more than the upper classes would ever do."

The senate bill contained input from both sides of the aisle, and was endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It eliminated the capital gains tax on small business investment and created a lending fund to be administered through community banks. Leadership agreed to the consideration of at least three Republican amendments. Here's something everybody could come together and agree on, right?

Maybe not. Republicans refused to allow passage if they couldn't debate amendments dealing with nuclear funding, Bush's millionaires' tax cuts and brown borders encroaching our southern border. Isn't it better to have no bill at all, rather than one that doesn't address the needs of mom-and-pop nuclear reactors, with no opportunity to bash Democrats as weak on "illegals"? Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La) responded, "Eighty-one percent of the jobs lost in America are from small business - so when the other side complains and complains and just flaps and flaps all day long about it's a jobless recovery, we put a bill on the floor to create jobs for small business and they say no... They can color it, paint it any way they want, that's what it was."

Apparently, help for small business is too

controversial. But if we can come together and agree on anything, how about making sure the heroes of 9/11, rescue workers who continue to suffer long-term respiratory and other ailments from exposure to the dust at ground zero, are taken care of? You'd think this would be a real come-together moment, but some Republicans decided instead to turn their backs and let the rescue workers suffer - including our own Rep. David Dreier.

I wanted to know the reason, so I put in a call to the congressman's office. I was told not to doubt Rep. Dreier's commitment to our 9/11 heroes, because he supported the original aid bill - just not this subsequent version. Did I miss something? When did this original bill come out? In 2001, I was told; nine years ago, but presumably sufficient to establish his bona fides as a real 9/11-heroes-supporter.

Unless it's Pentagon spending or tax breaks for millionaires, Republicans insist that legislation be "paid for". Wasn't that taken care of here? "You shouldn't have tax increases during tough times", I was told. But I didn't see any "tax increases" in the bill, which would be paid for by closing the loophole allowing foreign trans-national corporations to avoid paying taxes on their U.S. income by incorporating in offshore tax havens. American small businesses, those that provide American jobs, pay taxes on their income like most of us do; why should we be giving a break to foreign corporations that close factories and move thousands of jobs to China and India? "It's a tax increase." And if it's employment we're concerned about, there's that job fair Rep. Dreier is sponsoring in Monrovia.

I was told Dreier's opposition stemmed from his desire to "protect" taxpayers. The bill could be funded instead by eliminating "waste, fraud and abuse" in other programs. Did he have anything specific in mind? No. There was not sufficient oversight in the program as outlined in the legislation. What changes would the congressman make? Didn't know. The voting procedure didn't allow for amendments to "improve" the bill. Were there any amendments the congressman wanted to see introduced? No idea. We know that Dreier was following the party line, what Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-NY) described as "Republicans wrapping their arms around Republicans rather than doing the right thing on behalf of the heroes." We know David Dreier voted to protect those at the very top of the income ladder at the expense of those, as NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg put it, "whose health has fallen apart because they did what America wanted them to do."

Democrat Russ Warner asks, "After 30 years in office, David Dreier is rich. Are you?" A question I neglected to ask when I called his office was, rather than ducking out as he has in past elections, will the congressman finally show up to debate his opponent and answer to his constituents on the issues facing our community and our country? Regardless of ideological differences, political leanings or party affiliation, I think we could all come together and agree that such a debate and discussion would be most welcome.

## GREG Welborn

### Clarifying The Election (Part I)



We are just about 3 months from the mid-term elections, and I think it would be helpful to look at some of the clarifying issues that will most likely be decided by this next election. The most basic of these issues is at the heart of the current debate about whether to let taxes increase in January, as they are currently scheduled to do. In deciding this issue, we are essentially deciding who we want to control many aspects of our lives.

Right now, the world scene presents American voters with two diametrically opposed models. The one is epitomized by Europe. The continent is struggling under the wave of debt that has been incurred to pay for the cradle-to-grave nanny state that has been carefully constructed over the last 50 years.

Citizens in Europe may work just as hard as their American counterparts, but they see the vast majority of their pay taken from them in the form of income taxes, value added taxes and other levies. They receive copious "benefits" from the government, including healthcare, childcare, mandated vacation, etc. But the issue here is that the government is deciding how the workers get to spend and enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Unfortunately for them, that system isn't working like it used to. Leaders, like the new Prime Minister of England, are now having to tell their people to expect decades of austerity to pay for what has been put in place. There simply aren't enough tax revenues collected to pay for what has been promised to too many of the voters. The result is sluggish growth, declining living standards and now social unrest.

The other model is the one being offered by many of the emerging economies of the world. Workers are being allowed greater flexibility in where they can work, are being allowed greater latitude in negotiating for their rate of pay, and now finally being allowed greater freedom in where they can spend their wages. Workers get to spend and enjoy the fruits of their labor.

America is at a fork in the road. Historically, we have believed in the freedom model. But our current president has made no bones about his desire to fundamentally transform America. The healthcare bill was just an opening salvo in this effort. We can debate the financial implications of the bill later, but if it is fully implemented, at its heart it shifts control over healthcare decisions from the patient and doctor to the government. The Financial reform bill was the second salvo. The government has now usurped the power to decide which company presidents can be fired, which contracts can be honored or abrogated and who will get a student

loan and who won't, among other things.

But the most significant and potentially far reaching battle is the overall budget battle. The current administration has not just presided over, it has actively caused, the largest deficit we have ever seen with even more red ink planned. This isn't just an issue of financial prudence. These deficits are being caused by government-issued promises to an ever-increasing number of constituencies. Every one of these promises tends to be embraced by its recipient once it goes into affect, and every one of them requires tax revenues to be raised.

There will be a point when the deficits become so large that we will be forced to increase existing tax rates and to impose additional taxes and levies as has been done in Europe. That is what liberal "progressives" are counting on. Get the programs passed now, the recipients dependent on the aid, and the necessity of raising taxes is all but guaranteed.

My fellow Americans, don't forget for one moment that with each promise and tax increase, more of what you earn is being taken from you and then returned in the manner determined by some government bureaucrat. A little bit of your freedom disappears each time.

Come November, the competing visions for America couldn't be more opposed. It is not a difference of visions over healthcare, financial regulation, environmental policy or any of the other justifications which have and will be offered. The November election decision will be about whether we, the citizens, get to decide how to spend what we earn or whether they, the government, get to decide how to spend what we earn.

The new Director of Medicare was refreshingly honest when he said that only the smartest leaders can design a social system for the rest of us. If we elect leaders who will allow taxes to increase in January, we will be giving them more control over our lives. If we elect leaders who maintain or lower taxes, we will be taking back control over our lives. In Thomas Jefferson's immortal words, this is about the pursuit of happiness. Who is going to decide what we can pursue - us or them? Choose well America.

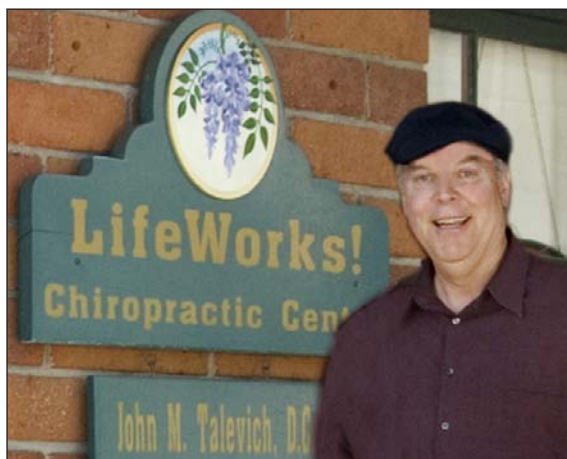
*About the author: Gregory J. Welborn is a freelance writer and has spoken to several civic and religious organizations on cultural and moral issues. He lives in the Los Angeles area with his wife and 3 children and is active in the community. He can be reached at [gregwelborn@earthlink.net](mailto:gregwelborn@earthlink.net).*







## YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Today's Subject:  
MINDFULNESS

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.

Mindfulness, the moment to moment process of being aware of what we are doing, thinking and feeling, is currently the focus of numerous research studies, including many funded by the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Why are these studies of so much interest, one may wonder?

For many of us, our inner workings are much like a runaway train. Agitation, worry, anger, isolation, fatigue and anxiety are the principal actors on our inner stage, a veritable improv. These thoughts, feelings and actions create a physiology that leads to exhaustion. By establishing the presence of a calm, nonjudgmental, attentive self (picture a kind, compassionate and wise creative director sitting in the audience) our

mindscape is altered and high levels of stress hormones are reduced.

If reducing stress and developing peace of mind are not enough, how about the bottom line? Raytheon? Bose? Harvard Law School? Federal prisons? LAPD? Hospitals? All have provided training in mindfulness.

The best thing about mindfulness is that it is free. No prescription drugs, no travel, no long hours of study, no expenses for new wardrobes, no money to join: nothing but awareness. In fact, I feel a bit guilty in writing about it, kind of like selling you your own car! If this is new to you, consider exploring the concept on line (google Mindfulness), and if it's old hat, consider these words a friendly reminder.

Finally, next week we will discuss a few practices which help reduce stress and anxiety. Here is one to utilize this week: When you first get into your car, the initial response might be to turn on the radio. Instead, take a few breaths, be aware of yourself and enjoy the quiet. Gently resist the urge to reach for the radio as you go about your business, instead breathing and being awake to what you are doing, feeling and thinking.

Have a great week! Dr. John

## LifeWorks! Chiropractic Center

### Individually Tailored Wellness Programs

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

## 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, August 8 associate pastor Rev. Karen Berns, pastor, will preach "Prodigal Grace" based on the parable of the prodigal son.

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.smccpb.com](http://www.smccpb.com)

## GI Tract & Swallowing Disorders in Parkinson's Disease

San Gabriel Valley Neurologist, Jerome Lisk, and Jesse (June-Chih) Liu have formed a support group for those with Parkinson's disease. This support group is for individuals with movement disorders, their family/friends or individuals interested in learning about Parkinson's. The support group meets the third Friday of the month at 2:00pm Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive. This month the group will meet on August 20, 2010 at 2:00pm. A guest speaker will talk on GI tract and swallowing disorders in Parkinson's disease.

## Headache Prevention Presentation

Dr. Ami, D.C. is known as a headache specialist and enjoys providing health information on how individuals can avoid painful headaches in a medicine-free environment. This health presentation will take place Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at 1:30pm, Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive. Dr. Ami has solutions for 90 percent of all headaches. She will decode your headaches, classify them, and show home remedies you can implement immediately to ease and eliminate headaches.

If interested in attending either presentation, please contact the Arcadia Senior Services Department 626.574.5130 asap.

## Why Walk? How About A PediCab?

At Sierra Madre's National Night Out event, visitors Faye Olsen (front) and her mother, Sandra Hart of Pasadena try out the new Pedicab, an electrically or manually powered 3-wheeled vehicle.

As pictured on the left, the unit comfortably seats two or can be customized to suit your needs.

Why Walk - Pedicab is a new business in Sierra Madre at 160 East Montecito.

Contact owner Gina Garcia at 407-851-4386 or go to their website: [www.whywalkpedicab.com](http://www.whywalkpedicab.com) to learn more.



## 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](http://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.

## 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.

## Recipe of the Week:

## Garlic Shrimp Linguini

## INGREDIENTS:

1 pound uncooked linguine  
1 tablespoon butter  
3 tablespoons white wine  
2 teaspoons grated Parmesan cheese  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
1 teaspoon chopped fresh parsley salt and pepper to taste  
1 pound medium shrimp, peeled and deveined

## DIRECTIONS:

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente; drain.

In a medium saucepan, melt butter over medium low heat; add wine, cheese, garlic, parsley and salt and pepper to taste. Simmer over low heat for 3 to 5 minutes, stirring frequently.

Increase heat to medium high and add shrimp to skillet; cook for about 3 to 4 minutes or until shrimp begins to turn pink. Do not overcook.

Divide pasta into portions and spoon sauce on top; garnish with Parmesan cheese and fresh parsley, if desired.

## August Birthdays



Karlene Englert, Juanita Fernandez, Joseph Kiss, Patricia Miranda, Margaret Aroyan, Phyllis Bugh, Phyllis Chapman, Beverly Clifton, Mary Kay Gifford, Rosemary Morabito, Mary J. Perry, Marjorie Peterson, Susan Poulsen, Dorothy Quentmeyer, Genevieve Stubbs, Wilhelmina "Miep" Tulleners

## 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

## Dial - a - Ride Tickets

Tickets can now be purchased at:  
Sierra Madre City Hall  
Hart Park House / Senior Center  
Sierra Madre Library

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FARMERS MARKET

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Chris Bertrand

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

### Charmed By The Farmhouse Life

It's hard to find Auburn Lane in Sierra Madre. When I have ventured there previously, the narrow street seemed to disappear into the foliage. I think it might just step back in time sixty or seventy years. When I pulled up to the charming farmhouse of Leigh Jackson Hood and Darwin Hood, I expected to hear the rhythmic creak of grandma rocking on the front porch.

In reality, no Grandma lives here. A series of Cal Tech geology staff passed ownership down within the department over a number of years until Leigh purchased it. She and her sons quickly fell in love with it four years ago, and the home became centerpiece of Leigh and Darwin's wedding in 2007. In the ensuing years, they've gently carved their initials there, careful not to break the magical spell that surrounds the home. Leigh, daughter of a Georgia architect and former interior designer for Coca Cola facilities, always lived in more formal abodes. Never one to blanch at a "project" home, she's redone several over the years, the last a Monterey Colonial in Pasadena.

In fact she quips that she always "needs" to have a project going in the house." Says Darwin, "Leigh is a genius at seeing the possibilities in a home!" This Auburn Lane home is no exception.

One to the rope swing hung from a majestic oak and the other, onto the roof of the gazebo, like "king of the mountain." From their perches, the boys announced they had found their home. Whatever was inside the structure was immaterial to them.

The home went through some swift, hard work to prepare for Jackson and Hood's summer 2007 wedding. "We put a lot of love into it," says Leigh, "and set aside that more traditional lifestyle of the big house with a rose garden for less formal, casual living. It's been great for the kids... and for us!"

Leigh had accumulated used bricks from a contractor, knowing she wanted to use them.... sometime. Over they came from the old Pasadena house. It was Darwin's idea to create a beautiful garden venue for their upcoming wedding, and put a lot of time and energy into the back yard project. Darwin lovingly built brick pathways from the driveway to the workshop/media room to



415 Auburn Lane

the gazebo and the house, adding oodles of just the right kind of relaxed charm, and connecting the areas together.

Then he hand built in a barbecue and sink at the gazebo, creating an outdoor cooking area that blended into the surroundings.

The gazebo is now their outdoor living room and was the site of that highly anticipated garden wedding. In a throwback to her Southern heritage, Leigh wanted a yard aflower with hydrangeas. It was accomplished, though all of them

had to be stored in pots inside, until just before the wedding, as the temperatures soared to triple digits that week.

A special kind of green light emanates from the yard, which remains relaxed and natural, but seems to glow like lush halo. I noticed it immediately when I reviewed the photo I took of the couple at the gazebo. That warm glow seeped into the wedding pictures, too, where the family and the groomsmen used a sage green for dresses and ties.

Inside, they found the hardwood floors unusable, so new ones were installed to look like the period. They peeled back a Masonite-type product on the living and dining room ceilings to reveal a charming bead board. The room was reconfigured by an earlier owner, incorporate the old front porch into living space once upon a time, when the front door was changed from the South to the East side of the house.

The kitchen was remodeled with finishes chosen to feel compatible with the era of the rest of the home. The granite counters were honed instead of polished to reflect a soft aged

look, rather than mirror like surfaces often used today. 1920's style handles on painted cabinets and brick shaped ceramic tile backsplashes complete the farmhouse look.

Modern laundry facilities were hidden away between the kitchen and dining area. Doors keep the washer and dryer out of sight; and the generous counters can multitask as surfaces for folding clothes or filled with a buffet for guests.

The master suite opens to that magical yard through windows that were replaced in the remodel. What it might lack in voluminous square footage is replaced with a permeating tranquility gleaned from the back yard views. The second floor remains unabashedly "farmhouse" with pitched ceilings and simple closets decorated in shades of masculine blue denim, corduroy and cotton duck, appropriate for the two teenage boys who share it.

Even though a bit of unexpected reality struck when they realized their dream cottage in the country didn't have air conditioning or a dishwasher, this family's love for their farmhouse hasn't dimmed one bit. They just had another



Leigh Jackson Hood and Darwin Hood

"project" for Leigh!

**Know of an interesting home or garden that might interest our readers? Send the contact information to [C.Bertrand@MtnViewsNews.com](mailto:C.Bertrand@MtnViewsNews.com) today!**

When her Pasadena home sold with a very short escrow in 2006, she scurried to find a new place to call home. Touring this property was a bit of a challenge, with two pit bulls in residence. Yet, soon the farmhouse was theirs, and they were in love!

The Auburn home has an eerie similarity to her "dream book" binder of articles assembled from home and architectural magazines. She flipped through the book for me, and there the pieces were... the simple fireplace, the comfortable relaxed seating, the steep straight staircase, the fruit trees (fourteen!) and the yard. Ohhhh, the yard! "It felt like a country retreat with the nearby amenities of the city," reflected the couple. I ate all four of the apricots I received as a parting gift from Darwin, just picked from the tree beside the driveway. How did they know that apricots were my favorite fruit? Two years ago, I even confessed in this column that I chomped down on a couple of delectable apricots fallen from a subject home on Fairview. Vacant as it was, so I didn't feel too guilty! But don't tell!

The couple laughs recalling her sons' first visit to the property. She says, "They raced right through the house to the back yard.

There are two apparently attractive options for buyers scoping out a deal. One type is the "short sale," where sellers have made an agreement with their lender to sell the home for less than they still owe on the mortgage.

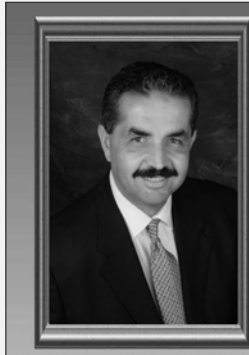
The second type is the REO (bank-owned) home, which has fallen back into the hands of the lender after the sellers defaulted.

While these properties may be appealingly priced, buyers need stomach and smarts to take proper advantage. If you're considering a short sale purchase, focus only on those with a price pre-approved by the lender. Otherwise, you may be wasting precious time in negotiations that may still ultimately fail.

Also seek out foreclosures that are protected by the Cash For Keys program, which offers the current (or former) owners a cash incentive to prevent them from neglecting the property before vacating it. Either way, inspections are crucial, especially if the house has been vacant for some time. Talk to your agent about having the utilities temporarily reconnected for the inspection, so you're sure all is in working order.

And finally, don't focus on the asking price alone. Location in a declining neighborhood or extreme maintenance and repair issues will eclipse any perceived value in a low price. Great homes are out there at bargain prices, but let an agent guide you through potential pitfalls.

*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](mailto:luther@tsinoglou.com).*



### Tips of the Trade: Real Estate Revealed

by Luther Tsinoglou

## TAKE A GUIDE ON YOUR HUNT

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9802 Miolann St., <b>Temple City</b>	Open Sunday 1-4pm Phil Daniels	\$1,050,000
759 Arcadia Ave #D, 6712 N Goldenwest Ave., 821 Country Oaks, 2159 Highland Vista Dr., 1203 Highland Oaks Dr., 1142 La Rosa Rd., 1802 Delford Ave., 3617 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., 121 Marion Ave., <b>Arcadia</b> <b>Arcadia</b> <b>Arcadia</b> <b>Arcadia</b> <b>Arcadia</b> <b>Arcadia</b> <b>Duarte</b> <b>La Crescenta</b> <b>Pasadena</b>	Open Sunday 2-4pm Niroo Dev Imy Dulake Ted Javidpour Jeff & Darlene Bowen Imy Dulake Jeff & Darlene Bowen Patrice Jacobs Victor Mansour Jean Valiquette/ Blanca Jenkins John Kermgard Ash Rizk & Victor Mansour John Kermgard Howard Lu Bruce Pfeiffer	\$ 429,900 \$ 488,000 \$ 798,000 \$ 948,000 \$ 978,000 \$ 998,000 \$ 349,000 \$ 485,000 \$ 555,000 \$ 765,000 \$ 688,000 \$ 879,000 \$ 599,000 \$ 738,000
2440 Las Lunas St., 50 Esperanza Ave #C, <b>Pasadena</b> <b>Sierra Madre</b>	Open Sunday 2-5pm Peggy Fong Chen Peggy Fong Chen Peggy Fong Chen Mel Macklin Mel Macklin Peggy Fong Chen	\$ 488,000 \$ 508,000 \$1,189,000 \$ 539,000 \$ 579,900 \$ 395,000

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