

ALLEGED SOUTH PASADENA MASS MURDER PLOT AVERTED

First day of class peaceful at South Pasadena High as police increase foot and bicycle patrols around school

By Dean Lee

Police stepped up enforcement around all South Pasadena schools on the first day of class Thursday, a day after prosecutors officially charged two teens, aged 16 and 17, with making criminal threats to kill another teen in connection with a thwarted mass shooting plan at South Pasadena High School.

“As is a tradition here, we always provide extra patrol [on the first day] to our schools, we have five schools in our city, in this case I’ve asked for off duty officers to come in and work around the schools... I want there to be a sense of safety within our community,” said South Pasadena Police Chief Art Miller. Residents around South Pasadena High

including parents, students and teachers, held a prayer vigil Wednesday evening that ended with a walk to the campus. Some expressed compassion for the teens, still in custody, hoping they get the help that they need. “It is so hard to even grasp,” one of the parents said.

Miller said the two teens were arrested Monday after police uncovered an alleged threat to massacre students and specifically kill three staff members at the high school.

“The South Pasadena Police Department was notified by the high school staff that they had received information of a possible threat to the school that a shooting was going to occur,” Miller said. He said investigators had been “working on the case around the clock” since being notified the Thursday before.

(continued on page 2)

CONVICTED CHILD SEXUAL PREDATOR-PORNOGRAPHER BACK IN SIERRA MADRE

After serving an 8 Year Sentence in Federal Prison, AWest, now a registered sex offender, has come back to Sierra Madre near a local school

AWest aka Andrew West Reid, Jr., was released from federal prison on January 17, 2014 after serving 8 years for multiple sex crimes against children. He was found guilty of two counts of committing lewd acts with children in state court and one count of possession of child pornography in federal court. The crimes for which he was convicted were perpetuated against a friend of his daughter who was only six years of age. Sentenced in 2006 to two 6 year and one 8 year terms, he was allowed to serve them concurrently. Now, eight years later, AWest is back in Sierra Madre.

AWest and his wife were also sued in civil court by the victim. The suit alleged that Awest was “a renowned director for children’s shows and utilized his position of trust to gain access to plaintiff [victim] and sexually abused her”. She sued AWest for sexual battery and breach of fiduciary duty, and sued his wife, Patrycja AWest for negligent supervision and breach of fiduciary responsibility. The court awarded a judgment in the victims favor for \$2.4 million pain and suffering, \$500,000 future medical expenses and \$2.5 million in punitive damages. However, to date, the victim has not received anything.

In 2012, the California Court of Appeals reversed the lower court’s civil ruling. AWest, who represented himself in the civil suit, convinced the Appellate Court that due to the fact that he was in custody and unable to appear in person or telephonically, he should have a new civil trial. He utilized the services of an attorney for the appeal who also argued that the award was excessive. The Appellate Court agreed and reversed the judgment of the lower court with direction for a retrial of the case. No new trial date has been set, in fact, in late May of this year Attorney Tony DiMarco of Pasadena who represents the child that was molested, filed a request for dismissal.



AWest aka Andrew West Reid, Jr., was spotted by a Sierra Madre resident who noticed him washing a vehicle contrary to city’s new water conservation policy.

The request was filed “without prejudice” meaning the victim may refile at any time. In a telephone interview with DiMarco, he indicated that the young lady, now a teenager, has until she is 26 years of age to do so. DiMarco also hopes that other victims who were very young at the time may now be ready emotionally to come forth.

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Police, media and parents watch as students enter SPHS.

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WATER CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS: The Messersmith’s Masterpiece

Story and Photo by Coco La Salle

It’s that time of the year again. With weather up in the 80’s and higher, bright sunny skies, and those warm Summer nights we all love so much, it’s no wonder the majority of our time is now spent trying to cool off. While many of us have been lounging pool-side or hiding in the comfort of our well air-conditioned homes, others have been going above and beyond to make environmentally conscious decisions that have caught the eyes of the neighborhood.

Although beating the heat has posed no threat to us, our foliage would say otherwise. Lawns have turned from a lush green to practically hay. The only way to maintain the beauty would be to water constantly, but with the ongoing water crisis that has taken a toll on the city that would be nearly impossible . . . or would it? Our neighbors, Jim and Wendy Messersmith, have done the impossible and proved to the community that making a few mindful changes can actually reap many rewards both for themselves and the neighborhood.

The homes of Sierra Madre are all quite lovely, but have you ever gone past one that literally makes you stop dead in your tracks? For the sake of this article we can call that the “Messersmith effect”. From a passerby’s view you are immediately greeted by a highly decorated yard filled with all sorts of beautiful succulents, grasses, and rocks. What many don’t know is that this brainchild was spawned by the very humble, Jim Messersmith.

The Messersmiths told me of the great headache they had once called their yard. Jim battled against different fungi, weeds, and horrible weather conditions to sustain the splendor. When he noticed their water bill skyrocketing and heard all the water conservation hype in town, he knew it was time to make a change. “Finally it got to the point where I was just sick of it. I couldn’t do it anymore. So I just completely stopped maintaining it; the amount of water and all.” Within a blink of an eye their yard had nearly withered away creating more of a fire hazard than anything. Although this lawn suicide was a heartbreak, it fueled Jim to construct this drought tolerant masterpiece, what is now a scenic spot for neighbors and town visitors alike.

What makes this work so special is the fact that each individual component has a specific memory associated with it. The Messersmiths have had some of their most cherished memories, while camping in the Anza-Borrego Desert. The family would cross a series of bridges to get to the natural oasis



Jim and Wendy Messersmith stand in front of their drought tolerant creation.

in Palm Canyon, which is the inspiration for the dry riverbed and bridge. On one of their hiking adventures, they journeyed for what seemed like forever and came upon an Elephant Tree, a tree so rare that skeptics once refused to acknowledge its existence. While hunting tirelessly for California native plants to add to the lawn they miraculously found a young Elephant Tree, which now stands tall, growing in the middle of it all. Each big boulder, grass, and plant was specifically placed in order to give off the sensation of being back at the desert and for them, bring back memories that will now last for a lifetime.

If you think the yard is amazing, you would be left speechless after getting the grand tour of the

Messersmith home. Jim, being a jack-of-all-trades, has completely transformed his childhood home (did I forget to mention this Sierra Madre native was born and raised in that very house?). Everything from the photographs on the walls, home décor, backyard greenhouse oasis, vegetable garden, cacti collection and, soon to come soda pop room for the grandkids, were all created and hand-built by he himself.

Always keeping the water crisis in mind, Jim has gone through great lengths to recreate his stunning home, hardly using any water. They share all of these memories with their seven grandchildren, who absolutely love playing all over their creation, and now also with the entire neighborhood.



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WALKING SIERRA MADRE...The Social Side

By Deanne Davis

“We seek tranquility in the midst of conflict and danger, we strive to control our bodies, mind and emotions. We strive to avoid conflict when possible, defend ourselves when necessary, and protect others when possible.” Part of the G3 Mission Statement

Walking Sierra Madre a week or so ago, about 6 a.m. while it was still cool enough for a walk, my patient and equally inquisitive walk partner, John, and I found ourselves in front of the G3Academy of Martial Arts & Wellness, right next to Arnold’s Hardware. People were racing into G3, like they were coming off a 5K run! As we thought G3 was just for little kids learning Martial Arts, we stopped looking astonished, took a step back, and read all the new lettering on the window. Let me just tell you, G3 is not just a kid place anymore! Here’s what is going on now:

Meditation Life Skills:	Focus-Respect – Restorative Leadership
Self-Defense:	Empowerment – Self Confidence
Hapkido:	The Way of Harmony
Sparring:	Speed-Power - Agility
Fitness:	Balance-Strength - Flexibility

There are weights, padded floor mats, exercise equipment, and highly qualified trainers. Owner and chief instructor, Gary Gapezzani, and instructors Peter Sandford and Eric Phillips are all delightful guys and in great shape...and, this is so cool, Gary, Peter and Master Darlas, who is G3’s Martial Arts Master instructor, have been friends since they were all in 3rd grade together!

Gary began studying Hapkido in 1988 under Grandmaster Chong Song Kim. He is currently a fourth degree black belt, certified as a Ki Gong instructor and has practiced the art for over 20 years. In 2012 he founded G3 Academy of Martial Arts along with Master Bill Darlas, who also began Hapkido in 1988 under Grandmaster Chong Kim, becoming a Master in 2006. Both Gary and Master Darlas have been teaching the art for over twenty years.

Before G3, Gary was an elementary and middle school teacher for 17 years in the Los Angeles Unified District, which is where he learned how to bring out the best in kids, how to get them to respond, to learn to take on life with gusto and, mostly, to just try. We all know middle school kids are about the most challenging people on the planet so it looks like Gary is well equipped and totally prepared to help just about any kid.

There are currently 80 young people, 4 to 14 years old, involved in the Hapkido training. As G3 considers itself a family operation, families are their first consideration. Gary and his staff are able to work with kids who are having a tough time, i.e., autistic kids, those who are being bullied or who just simply haven’t broken out of their shells. As Hapkido is about character development and learning life skills, such as patience, self-discipline, and self-control, G3 is able to give caring positive input and results of the training are evident in just a few months. Many of their students remain at G3 for years, working their way through the belt curriculum. The whole “belt” curriculum (beginner yellow through several degrees of black) is available at G3. Gary assured me that no transitions to higher ranks take place till people are really ready.

Peter Sandford (formerly affiliated with another local Crossfit studio) and Eric Phillips are the co-Madre Morning Fitness/ Crossfit trainers. Peter was a Financial Wholesaler for 16 years, complete with serious suit, designer tie, horrendous hours spent in traffic commuting to Beverly Hills and Century City and the accompanying stress, when what he really wanted to do was be involved in nutrition and fitness. While I was there, Eric was lifting an amazing amount of weight on a bar-bell, displaying quite an impressive 8-pack, and issuing instructions for lunges to the people



who were coming in to start their next class.

OK, what is Madre Morning Fitness? You’re going to love it: It’s for those of us forty-somethings and older who want a workout that’s not as aggressive as Crossfit and that’s inclusive, rather than exclusive. In other words, Peter and Eric assess who’s there and tailor the workout to fit the group, instead of a workout that may fit some of the group. Nice!

G3 is definitely the place for kids, but it’s so much more. 5 a.m. to noon are adult classes, including Madre Morning Fitness, of course. Then 3-8 p.m. are the Hapkido classes. Currently there are between 30 and 40 adults participating in the martial arts classes.

G3 Academy of Martial Arts & Wellness is at 303 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., 626-773-6876. You can check out their website: HYPERLINK “<http://www.g3academy.com>” www.g3academy.com.

If you’ve been thinking about checking out something new for yourself, or if you’ve been considering martial arts training for your son or daughter, you might take a look at G3. They’ve got a Ki Gong class I’m going to look into. “Ki Gong is an excellent exercise for all ages and exceptional for practicers to gain balance, strength, and vitality.” Who couldn’t use a little more of those!

“A black belt is a white belt who never quits!” Renzo Gracie

My book: “A Tablespoon of Love, A Tablespoon of Laughter” is available on Amazon.com; or at <https://www.createspace.com/4561071>

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, August 10th to Sunday, August 17th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 415 calls for service.

Sunday, August 10th

At 9:45 am, Sierra Madre Police responded to the station lobby regarding an identity theft report. Officers were informed by the victim that he had recently returned from vacation and when he checked his mail, he noticed several letters from various credit card companies regarding recent applications. The victim called the companies and was informed an unknown person had attempted to open various credit cards in his name. When the suspect noticed a statement letter from a third party pay company, it read that there was an outstanding balance of over \$550 for an account in his name. When the victim contacted the company, he was informed that there were numerous other purchases from the account under his name with a total outstanding balance of over \$4,000. The company provided names and addresses used to purchase with the account to Sierra Madre Police. This case has been forwarded to the Detectives Bureau.

Wednesday, August 13th

At 12:10 pm, Sierra Madre Police responded to the station lobby regarding an animal bite report. Officers were informed by the victim that, the night before between 7:30 and 8:00 pm, she went outside to collect her mail from her mailbox near her residence on the 200 block of East Sierra Madre Blvd. As she collected her mail, she noticed a leashed dog being walked by its owner. As the victim was standing next to her mail box, the dog jumped up and bit her thigh, causing a puncture wound. The victim does not know why the dog bit her and explained the owner expressed that she was very sorry for the incident. The victim described the dog as a being a medium sized with a white and beige color. The victim was treated by her doctor for her injury. Pasadena Humane Society took a report of the incident. This case has been forwarded to the Detectives Bureau.

At 2:33 pm, Sierra Madre Police were out on patrol near the 60 Block of South Baldwin Ave. when they were flagged down by a civilian regarding an altercation. Officers were informed by the victim that, she and a friend were advocating President Obama’s Impeachment at a booth they set up. While they were handing out literature, the suspect pulled up in his vehicle next to the booth and both the victim and suspect got into a verbal altercation. The suspect began to throw water bottles and soda cans at the victim, which hit her several times, as their disagreement about the campaign continued. The suspect got out of his vehicle and continued the verbal argument with the victim while allegedly knocking off papers from the campaign booth in disapproval. The victim requested the suspect to be arrested under a private person’s arrest. The suspect was arrested and booked with battery.

Sunday, August 17th

At 3:30 pm, Sierra Madre Police were out on patrol on West Sierra Madre Blvd. when they were flagged down by a civilian regarding an animal bite. The victim informed Officers that just minutes prior, he was walking toward Kersting Court when he noticed a female subject with a dog on its leash, arguing with a male subject. As the victim walked past the couple the dog lunged at him and bit him twice. The victim stated initially he had not noticed he had been injured by the dog and kept walking, losing sight of the female subject. Investigation proved that the victim had two abrasions on both his right and left leg about one inch in diameter. The female subject was described as a White/Hispanic approximately 5’7” in height and weighing 125 lbs with brown hair and aged at about 40 years. The dog was described as a mixed breed weighing about 30-40 lbs with white, brown, and black color. This case has been forwarded to the Detectives Bureau.

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SEX OFFENDER (cont. from page 1)

Public notification?

AWest’s return went unnoticed by Sierra Madreans until a resident saw him washing a vehicle in his driveway. Had the city not been under new water conservation guidelines, he may have continued to go unnoticed. Local police departments notify the public via the official state sex offenders website. In California, that is the Megan’s Law website. And, although law enforcement at every level encourages parents and concerned citizens to monitor the Megan’s Law website for sexual predators that may be in their neighborhood, during our research for this article, we found that both that website, as well as the Crime Alert site were negligent in posting the location of this predator.

Captain Islas of the SMPD informed the Mountain Views News that AWest had indeed registered when he was released and that SMPD Detective Henry Amos has been working with the Department of Justice in an effort to keep the public information on all sex offenders current. DOJ is responsible for submitting information to all official Sex Offender websites, of which the Megan’s Law site is one. There are four registered sex offenders in Sierra Madre according to Islas but until Friday, only two were listed. AWest was added to the site late Friday afternoon. According to the Megan’s Law site, Pasadena has 114 registered offenders, Altadena 28 and Arcadia 20, Monrovia 28 and Duarte 21. It should be noted that certain types of sex offenses require registration with the local police, but do not require listing on sex offender websites. For more information on the identities of these offenders and locations go to www.meganslaw.ca.gov.

S. Henderson/MVNews

SIERRA MADRE’S SEX OFFENDERS ORDINANCE

One of the issues brought to the attention of the SMPD is whether or not AWest’s residence is in compliance with the city’s Sex Offenders Ordinance. At the urging of Los Angeles County Supervisors in 2009, municipalities were encouraged to create ordinance’s that would strengthen the current state and federal laws and provide additional protection for our children. Sierra Madre Mayor Mary Ann MacGillivray brought the matter before the council where, after staff review, a unanimous vote created the new law. <http://mntnviewsnews.com/v03/html/n29/index.htm>

Enforcement of that ordinance, along with the ordinances of 30 other cities have been put on hold as the result of a January 2014 California Appellate Court ruling. “... the Court’s decision effectively terminates any remaining city and county sex offender ordinances banning a registrant from public facilities such as parks, beaches, libraries and bus stops, as well as privately owned businesses like movie theaters, arcades and fast food restaurants with children’s playgrounds.”

The Sierra Madre Ordinance does go beyond the scope of public facilities, Child Safety Zones, but challenges to all local ordinances like Sierra Madre are pending. The Sierra Madre Ordinance includes designation of “Residential Exclusion Zones” which requires that registered sex offenders are prohibited from living at least 2,000 feet from any school, public or private. The residential exclusion zone is consistent with state law regarding residency restrictions. The unanswered question in Sierra Madre today is whether or not AWest’s residence is in compliance.

AWest lives very close to St. Rita School.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT TO SPEAK TO SIERRA MADRE RESIDENTS

Tuesday, August 29 - 12:00 Noon

Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club

33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. (The Lodge)

Lunch 12:00 - \$10.00

Program 12:30 - FREE

Call 626-355-0728 to reserve your seat!

Woman Guilty Of Leaving Children in Hot Car

A Highland Park resident, who left her two children locked in a car parked on a Pasadena city street earlier this month, was convicted on two counts of child endangerment — the Pasadena City Attorney/ City Prosecutor's Office said they will rigorously seek convictions in similar cases.

“There is no such thing as a quick errand when it comes to leaving kids or animals in the sweltering heat inside a car,” Pasadena City Attorney/ City Prosecutor Michele Beal Bagneris said. “Our message is clear: don't leave children inside a car in the heat.”

Corina Lopez, 35, pled guilty on Aug. 5, to child endangerment stemming from an Aug. 1, incident in which she left her two children, ages 3 and 7, inside a car parked on the street near the Pasadena Public Health Department. The Department's security guard alerted public safety officials to the situation.

Pasadena Fire officials at the scene determined the temperature inside the car was over 120 degrees. Authorities got the children to unlock the car door to free themselves prior to forcing entry into the car. The children were checked by paramedics who determined they were otherwise unharmed.

Lopez was sentenced to five years of probation; 120 days in county jail; mandatory year of parenting classes; pay court fines and fees; ordered to stay away from the children completely and to obey all orders from the Department of Children and Family Services.

Bagneris said such cases in Pasadena, while rare, will not be tolerated.

“Even one case is one too many when it comes to leaving children in cars on a hot summer day,” she added. “We have a great team of prosecutors in Pasadena and we are ready to seek the full extent of justice in order to protect the children.”

Pet of the Week



Lucky is a 10-year-old black Labrador. She's a sweet older gal and enjoys playing with toys and going on walks. Don't let her age fool you, she has plenty of energy and has lots of love to give.

Lucky's adoption fee is \$125, which includes her spay surgery, a microchip, the first set of vaccinations, as well as a free follow-up health check at a participating vet. Lucky also qualifies for our “Seniors for Seniors” program in which her adoption fee is waived for adopters 60 years old and older. New adopters will receive complimentary health and wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals, as well as a goody bag filled with information on how to care for your pet.

Call the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA at 626.792.7151 to ask about A361449, or visit at 361 S. Raymond Ave. in Pasadena. Adoption hours are 11-4 Sunday, 9-5 Tuesday – Friday, 9-4 Saturday. Pets may not be available for adoption and cannot be held for potential adopters from phone calls or email. Directions and photos of all pets can be found at www.pasadenahumane.org.

Cyclist Show Support for Citywide Bike Plan

By Dean Lee

Over 50 cyclists and local residents came out Monday night to show support for a new bicycle master plan that would create 38 miles of bike new corridors including cycle tracks, buffered bike lanes and bicycle boulevards.

The plan divides the city bike paths into north-south corridors and east-west corridors.

East-west streets include Washington, Orange Grove, Villa, Union, Green Street, Del Mar and Colorado.

North-south streets include El Molino Ave., Wilson Ave., Sierra Bonita Ave., and Craig Ave.

Residents and cyclists simply asked what they could do to help something Senior Transportation Planner Richard Dilluvio said was, input, “If you think there are too many east-west then you might want to lower those on the priority, that's what we really need to get from you.”

A recent feasibility study is calling for cycle tracks or buffered bike lanes on east-west corridors and bicycle boulevards

Equestrian Units Named for 2015 Rose Parade



Pasadena Tournament of Roses President Richard Chinen has announced Wednesday the 18 equestrian units that will ride in the 126th Rose Parade, themed “Inspiring Stories.”

The 18 groups selected are (listed alphabetically by group):

1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment, Marshal: SSG Michael Hatfield

Budweiser Clydesdales, Marshal: Sue Marler

Hawaii Pa'u Riders, Marshal: Leiala Cook

Hermanos Bañuelos Charro Team, Marshal: Ramon Bañuelos

Los Angeles County Fire Department, Marshal: Carmen Mackey

The Martinez Family, Marshal: Benny Martinez

Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament, Marshal: Jaci Hernandez

The New Buffalo Soldiers, Marshal: C.F. Brown

The Norco Cowgirls Rodeo Drill Team, Marshal: Mychon Brown

Old Spanish Days in Santa Barbara, Marshal: Dennis Rickard

Prime Time Express Mounted

Vote; SIP-tember Local Cocktail Bracket Challenge

64 drinks vie to be named favorite during six-week cocktail bracket challenge throughout Pasadena

Patrons decide which cocktail is Pasadena's favorite during SIP-tember: a celebration of the cocktail in Pasadena. Through September 25th, local restaurants will serve cocktails that will be paired against each other in a competition. 64 cocktails, ranging from drinks specially concocted for the competition to margaritas and sangria, begin the competition that lasts six weeks and culminates in a live taste-off of the four drinks that win their bracket.

The 64 cocktails competing in 32 brackets are now available for viewing at the Pasadena Restaurant Week website at www.pasadenarestaurantweek.com.

Drinks are chosen completely at random for the pairings. “I am very impressed with the drinks entered in this year's SIP-tember Cocktail Bracket



on north-south corridors.

He said their highest priority was a two-way cycle track the entire length of Green Street, form Pasadena Ave. to Hill Ave.

“Cycle tracks are bikeways located in roadway right-of-way but separated from vehicle lanes by physical barriers,” according to the study. Dilluvio said cars would park on the outside the barriers and cyclists ride between them and the curb.

Bike Boulevard shares the roads with some preferential treatment for bicycles.

Dilluvio said that some parking may be eliminated but they were working with the business community and residents to minimize the impact.

“Some of the versions would be, the only way you could do, it would be to eliminate parking,”

he said. “That would be at location where you need a little better visibility. When you move the parking away from the curb, where you had 10 spaces, you may now only have 9.”

Dilluvio said they hoped to have the plan to the city council for adoption early next year. He the first bike paths could be in place as soon as they get funding.

Total construction estimates topped \$10 million according to the study.

City Holds Idol Style Teen Singing Competition

The public is invited to cheer on 10 vocally talented youth as they sing their hearts out during the Pasadena Idol teen talent competition from 6-8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 23, 2014.

This free, family friendly event happens at the Garfield Promenade of Paseo Colorado, 280 E. Colorado Blvd., with the special red carpet walk beginning at 5 p.m.

Public parking is available at the Paseo Colorado underground parking structure and is free for the first 90 minutes with validation.

The winner of this year's Pasadena Idol competition receives the Idol Demo Pack, including studio time to produce a two-song demo and music video, 100 CDs for distribution, a feature article in The DENA magazine and the opportunity to perform at venues throughout the city.

The 10 contestants were selected from a pool of 40 talented youth who auditioned earlier this year for one of the finalist spots. After attending a series of workshops to help enhance performance and vocal techniques, the 10 finalists are now to step up to the microphone to compete for the Pasadena Idol crown.

The Pasadena Idol singing competition was created in 2007 by the City's Human Services and Recreation Department for local youth to showcase their talents and work with music professionals.

Co-sponsors for the event include Paseo Colorado, www.paseocoloradopasadena.com; Los Angeles College of Music, www.lacm.edu; OneSixFive Designs; Pasadena Community Access Corporation (“Pasadena Media”), www.pasadenamedia.tv, The DENA Magazine, www.thedenamagazine.com; and local production companies Swartz Section, S Claz Productions, Mike Towns Sounds and Young Black and Gifted.

For more information, contact Dolores Mendoza at (626) 744-7507.

Free Senior Scam Stopper Seminar

Assemblymember Chris Holden along with the Contractors State License Board will hold a Senior Scam Stopper Seminar Friday, September 12 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the South Pasadena Senior Center 1102 Oxley Street South Pasadena.

Protect yourself; one in five seniors has been a victim of fraud. Seniors are the most targeted group. New scams are developed constantly. Join us and learn how to protect yourself. Seniors, their families, and caregivers are welcome to attend this free seminar.

For more information or to RSVP, please visit asmdc.org/ or call 626-351-1917.

PCC Defends Dr. Rocha's Severance Package

After it was announced earlier this month that Dr. Mark Rocha, Superintendent-President of Pasadena City College, would retire at the end of the month, the amount of his severance package has now also been released, he will receive a little more than \$403,000.

He would also get \$16,000 in legal expenses, officials said.

“The terms of the severance package are in the best interests of all parties, said Dr. Anthony Fellow, President of the PACCD Board of Trustees. “The financial and other components are consistent with severance terms for U.S. chief executive officers overseeing organizations with budgets of over a hundred million dollars.”

Rocha was hired at a time when strong leadership was needed for the District, Fellow said. The College had had three presidents in as many years, infrastructure progress had stalled, and the state was suffering a severe financial crisis.

Rocha completed long-stalled construction projects, saw reaffirmation of the College's accreditation and won agreement on an educational master plan through shared governance. Despite challenges



and concerns that Dr. Rocha faced from various College constituent groups, with the support of the Board, he continued in his mission to improve the College.

After four years of dedicated service, the Board and Dr. Rocha agreed that his leadership had brought PCC to a place where the reins could be turned over and in order to maintain the momentum his leadership created, it is in the best interests of both the College and Dr. Rocha for him to retire from PCC to pursue teaching and writing Fellow said.

Rocha's last day on the job was July 31 although he officially retires Aug. 31.

College Gets Soaked For ALS Ice Bucket Campaign



Pasadena City College and the PCC Foundation donated today to the ALS Ice Bucket Campaign that is sweeping the nation. Trustee Ross Selvidge led the exhilarating experience in front of the mirror pool along with staff members Bobbi Abram, Valerie Wardlaw, Kris McPeak, Jeff Wojcik, Richard Beyer, Jeannie Sullivan, Anna Davis, Mei Cheng, and Carlos Altamirano.

PCC issued challenges to CA Senator Dianne Feinstein, CA Congresswoman

Judy Chu, Governor Jerry Brown, Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard, Pasadena Councilman Terry Tornek, Tournament of Roses President Rich Chinen, NBC4 LA Anchor Colleen Williams, Magic Johnson, Santa Monica Community College, and PCC Alum John Singleton.

The ALS Foundation is leading the fight to treat and cure ALS through advocacy and research. For more information and to donate, visit www.alsa.org.

Women's Equality Day Celebration

The day women received the right to vote

To celebrate Women's Equality Day and the day women received the right to vote, Pasadena Central Library will hold a special screening of Filmmaker/Director Jennifer Lee's “Feminist: Stories from Women's Liberation” on Tuesday, August 26 at 7 p.m. in Central Library's Donald R. Wright Auditorium, 285 E. Walnut St. followed by a

question and answer session led by filmmaker Lee.

“Feminist: Stories from Women's Liberation” is a one hour film about the women's liberation movement covering the years 1963-1970. The film won “Best of the Fest” for documentary at the Los Angeles Women's International Film Festival. The documentary explores the significance of the second wave of the women's liberation movement on our lives. Interviewees include author and NOW founder Betty Friedan, authors and activists Frances M. Beal, Robin Morgan, Sonia Pressman Fuentes, Betita Martinez and many other feminists who are not well-known but should be.

Learn How to Produce Your Own TV Show

New Citizen Journalism training starts Wednesday nights, learn how to report news using social media skills.

With the opening of the new Pasadena Media studios at 150 S. Los Robles Ave, they are offering free television-training programs for producers. Plan to attend an orientation to discover the right classes for you. Producers' Training teaches how to produce shows for The Arroyo Channel. Studio Production/Equipment training



PASADENA MEDIA

is also offered to volunteer crewmembers. In addition, on-going training will soon be available in citizen journalism and digital film groups. Call the office (626) 794-8585 or go to PASADENAMEDIA.ORG and explore what Pasadena Media has to offer.

Class Offerings	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Nightly
Station Schedule	
Producers' Training	Monday Aug. 25 at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Orientation & Tour	Wednesday Aug. 27 at 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Advanced Studio Lighting	Wednesday Aug. 27 at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Citizen Journalism Training	Wednesday Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Basic Editing	Thursday Aug. 28 at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

ARCADIA

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SANTA ANITA'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

From Arcadia's Best

By Scott Hettrick

Santa Anita Park is contemplating adding 800 horse stable barns in the north parking lot area, building two “high-class” restaurants on the opposite corner of the property near the Huntington Drive entrance to the Westfield Santa Anita mall, and potentially developing a major retail/entertainment component in the next couple of years to adjoin the track that could also include a hotel.

None of these plans has been officially proposed or submitted to the City for consideration. But during a study session prior to the Aug. 5 Arcadia City Council meeting, the Mayor, Council members, city staff and members of the public heard the tentative plans of Santa Anita Park chairman Keith Brackpool for future development of the 304-acre site.

Just a few years ago the City Council unanimously approved a major 800,000 commercial development called Shops at Santa Anita by the creator of The Grove and The Americana at Brand, Rick Caruso, for the 85-acres of the south parking lot of the track. But after legal challenges by neighboring Westfield the project died during bankruptcy proceedings for Santa Anita. Track owner Frank Stronach sought to change the partnership agreement he had with Caruso when he brought the track out of bankruptcy through the newly-formed Stronach Group, which resulted in Caruso ending his relationship with Stronach and the track.

Keith Brackpool

But now Brackpool, who was appointed chairman last year, said the company seeks to develop much more of the entire property than the big parking lot on the south side along Huntington Drive.

“A Caruso-type project would be nice,” he said, as would a hotel built into the track similar to the Camden Yards baseball stadium in Baltimore (or Meydan in Dubai). “We could build something magnificent there (in the first turn of the track),” he said. “We don’t need all 65,000 seats.”

But the first priority is the northern 219 acres. Brackpool said that with the demise of Hollywood Park last year, there is an immediate demand for 800 horse barns. Santa Anita will soon make this proposal to the City.

Next will be making use of two acres of long-vacant land by the old Gate 1 at the southwest corner of the parking lot alongside Huntington Drive next to the mall.

In response to a question by Council Member Roger Chandler about the long-term commitment to this future and a succession plan for Stronach given his age (he will be 82 next month), Brackpool said he is one of two partners of Stronach with an equity stake in Santa Anita. “There is a plan in place if any one of us is hit by a bus,” he said, noting that they all believe in the future of the viability of horse racing as a spectator sport.

“Coming to the track is better than sitting at home,” he said.

Brackpool further noted that said Stronach is the only horse track owner currently putting money back in to racing facilities; \$30 million in the last two years for improvements to the track (being completed this month), new luxury suites (more coming), and other remodel facilities — “Churchhill Downs (home of the Kentucky Derby) is not interested in putting money into horse racing.”

He pointed out that the Stronach Group owns seven race tracks as well as horse farms and a TV network. Santa Anita is taking over operations of their operations in south Florida, he said. Stronach owns Gulfstream Park between Miami and Fort Lauderdale, which has developed adjacent office, retail, restaurant, residential, entertainment, and casino gaming elements.

Brackpool said he would like to introduce restaurants at Santa Anita “something like the restaurants at Gulfstream.”

In response to a query by Council Member Sho Tay about retail and entertainment with an international flavor, Brackpool said they have already had “three very interesting offers from developers with an Eastern influence.” However, Brackpool told ArcadiasBest.com after the study session that Santa Anita/Stronach will not be looking for a developer investment partner again as they had with Caruso, noting that they would not be interested in giving up any equity stake.

In discussing the state of horse racing in general during the Study Session, Brackpool said there are improvements needed to revive the industry’s health. For one, he said California horse racing gets “zero money from gaming — the only state that is that way.”

He also said the exodus of horses leaving California tracks to race elsewhere where returns are better has stopped with recent legislation being passed to give horse owners a bigger cut of wagers.

The meeting was sparked by a conversation at the City’s goal-setting workshops earlier this year during which the City Council suggested the City be more pro-active regarding future development at the track property. In addition, the City is in the process of re-evaluating zoning throughout Arcadia. City officials said they want to avoid being too descriptive by creating specific zoning of every square foot of the Santa Anita property. The City has indicated in its 2010 General Plan update and by staff and Council Member comments that it would like to see any future development of the property around Santa Anita be developed as a cohesive project rather than piecemeal buildings and projects. The new about-to-be-opened Hale medical building on the five-acres across from Methodist Hospital should be the last of that kind of one-off project they say.

The city would like any future development performance criteria to include the support of horse racing and related activities, to be world class in scope while generating revenue for the city and being compatible with the character of Arcadia. No single family uses are contemplated, although City Manager Dominic Lazaretto noted that the school district has said recently that it could absorb students from families in new housing developments. But any residential use of the land would require re-zoning. And any development would trigger consideration of historic preservation issues.

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, August 10th, through Saturday, August 16th, the Police Department responded to 987 calls for service of which 121 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, August 10:

1. Just before 1:30 a.m., an officer conducted a DMV check on a vehicle in the area of Peck Road and Randolph Street. Upon discovering the vehicle had been reported stolen from the City of Baldwin Park, additional officers responded and a traffic stop was initiated. The 28-year-old Hispanic male was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

2. At approximately 12:01 p.m., an officer responded to Din Tai Fung restaurant, 1108 South Baldwin Ave, regarding a theft report. The female victim stated she left her purse containing \$8,000 cash in the restroom. Video surveillance revealed an unidentified 20 to 25-year-old Asian female entered the restroom after the victim and took her purse. The female suspect is currently outstanding.

Monday, August 11:

3. At about 3:07 p.m., an officer responded to the area of Huntington Drive and Sunset Boulevard regarding a hit and run collision. An investigation revealed Party-2 was rear-ended by Party-1 while waiting for a green light. Party-1 fled the scene after the collision. A records check on the suspect vehicle revealed it was registered out of the City of Buena Park.

4. At approximately 5:28 p.m., officers responded to the skate park near 100 South Second Ave in response to a vandalism report. The officers discovered fresh graffiti and two juveniles with spray paint cans in their backpack. Both 17-year-old Hispanic males were transported to Arcadia Police Department where they were cited and later released to their parents.

Tuesday, August 12:

5. Around 10:40 a.m., an officer initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of Duarte Road and Santa Anita Avenue for failing to use a turn signal. The officer discovered the 30-year-old Hispanic male was never issued a license. He was cited and released in the field without incident. His vehicle was impounded for 30 days.

6. Just after 5:45 p.m., an officer responded to Sephora at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Ave, regarding a suspect in custody for theft. The suspect concealed merchandise in her purse and exited the store without making payment. The 28-year-old Hispanic female was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City jail for booking.

Wednesday, August 13:

7. Shortly after 1:37 a.m., an officer conducted an enforcement stop on a vehicle in the area of Fano Street and Santa Anita Avenue for a broken license plate lamp. Upon contacting the driver, the officer detected a strong odor of alcohol emitting from inside the vehicle. An investigation revealed the driver was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. The 21-year-old White female was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

8. At about 1:30 p.m., officers initiated a traffic stop near the 00 block of East Huntington Drive for suspicion of theft. Shortly before, the victim noticed two unknown males stealing his lawn mower, which they loaded into a gray pickup truck. Upon making contact with the subjects, the suspects fled westbound toward Santa Anita Avenue. Officers located a

vehicle that matched the suspect vehicle description and initiated a traffic stop. During the stop, two passengers fled on foot.

An area check was conducted and officers located both passengers, a 26-year-old Hispanic male and 32-year-old White male. Both suspects were arrested for Grand Theft, Conspiracy to Commit a Crime, and Obstructing/Resisting Arrest. The 26-year-old Hispanic male also had outstanding felony and misdemeanor warrants. The driver of the vehicle, a 25-year-old Hispanic male, was also arrested for Grand Theft and Conspiracy to Commit a Crime. All three suspects were transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Thursday, August 14:

9. At approximately 3:09 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in area of Huntington Drive and Sunset Avenue for tinted windows. An investigation revealed the driver had an expired license, an outstanding misdemeanor warrant, and was in possession of drug paraphernalia. The 25-year-old male of unknown race was arrested for the listed charges and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

10. Around 7:57 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Motel 6, 225 Colorado Place, in reference to a restraining order violation. A 54-year-old White female violated her restraining order by holding a consensual meeting, during which the restrained subject yanked and threatened the victim. The 55-year-old Black male was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Friday, August 15:

11. Just after 5:06 p.m., an officer made consensual contact with a subject sleeping in front of CVS, 1401 South Baldwin Ave. The officer discovered the subject had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. While the officer attempted to handcuff the subject, the 27-year-old Hispanic male reached for the officer’s handcuffs, violently pulled away, and ran eastbound on Baldwin Avenue. After a short foot pursuit, the suspect was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

12. At about 10:56 p.m., officers responded to a residence in the 600 block of West Lemon Avenue regarding subjects screaming for help. An investigation revealed three Black male suspects entered the location through an unlocked rear window and forced the victims to lay face down while they ransacked the home. Shortly after, the victims were able to escape through a window, and jumped from the roof to the front yard. Two of the victims suffered injuries and were transported to local hospitals for treatment.

One of the suspects was seen wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and another wearing a red hooded sweatshirt. The third suspect was not seen, but was heard by the victims.

Saturday, August 16:

13. At approximately 7:50 a.m., an officer conducted a registry check at Motel 6, 225 Colorado Place, and discovered one of the rooms was registered to a 54-year-old Black male who was on parole and had a no bail felony warrant. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

14. Just after 4:50 p.m., an officer responded to JCPenney at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Ave, in reference to a subject in custody for theft. The 28-year-old Hispanic female entered the dressing room and concealed multiple items inside her used shopping bags. She paid for one item and exited the store without making payment for the concealed items. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

MONROVIA - DUARTE

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Monrovia Police Blotter

During the last seven-day period, the Police Department handled 411 service events, resulting in 81 investigations. To see a complete listing of crimes reported, go to <http://www.crimemapping.com/map/ca/monrovia> for crime mapping. For Police Department news and information, visit our website and follow us on Twitter.

Vehicle Tampering – Suspect Arrested

On August 18 at 7:35 a.m., police were dispatched to a residence in the 100 block of East Olive on the report of a female subject found inside the resident’s vehicle. The owner of the vehicle said tools were missing from the van, but no tools were found on the female subject or near the area where the vehicle was parked. A light was left on in the vehicle, causing the battery to drain. The suspect was arrested for vehicle tampering.

Vehicle Burglary

On August 18 at 6:36 p.m., a vehicle burglary was reported at a hotel parking lot in the 900 block of West Huntington. The victim parked and locked his vehicle in the parking lot. When he returned to his vehicle, he found the rear seats had been stolen. There was no sign of forced entry. The investigation is continuing.

Grand Theft Auto Recovered

On August 20 at 4:15 p.m., police recovered a stolen vehicle from Cypress and Magnolia. The vehicle was reported stolen on August 14 from a business parking lot in the 700 block of East Huntington. The investigation is continuing.

Commercial Burglary

One Count of Felony Burglary Filed Against Suspect On May 6, 2014, officers investigated a commercial burglary at the location and recovered latent fingerprints. The prints were submitted, which identified a potential suspect who was already in custody on an unrelated case. The suspect was interviewed, but denied committing the crime. The case was presented to the District Attorney’s Office, and one count of felony burglary was filed.

Commercial Burglary – One Suspect Arrested In July of 2014, two suspects who were fired from a business entered the Home Depot in the 1600 block of South Mountain and purchased items using their former employer’s business information. The employer recognized the suspects and contacted police. Detectives drove out to the cities of Riverside and Hemet, where they interviewed one of the suspects, who admitted to the crime. He was arrested and brought to Monrovia Police Department for booking. The case was presented to the District Attorney’s Office and an arrest warrant was obtained for the second suspect, who remains outstanding.



CITY OF ARCADIA - SUMMER CONCERT & MOVIES IN THE PARK SERIES!

The Arcadia Recreation and Community Services Department proudly announces the Summer Concert Series for 2014!

Mark your calendar! The City of Arcadia’s FREE summer concert series is approaching fast, so make sure you don’t miss out on the fun in the sun! The summer concerts are held on Thursday evenings starting at 6:30-8pm on the lawn between City Hall and the Police Department (240 West Huntington Drive). Bring the kids out to participate in the FREE fun zone, featuring games, crafts, and activities each week. In addition, the City is pleased to announce The Surfer Taco Food Truck at all of the 2014 Summer Concert Series! A portion of the proceeds will be given to the Recreation and Community Services Department! For more information, please call 626.574.5113. Listed below is the band for this week.

Cold Duck (70s top 40) – August 21, 2014

Back by popular demand! Join us once again for this special celebration.... Since its inception over two decades ago, Cold Duck’s philosophy has been directly responsible for their continued success: “Give the people what they want to hear and have a good time delivering it!” With this solid experienced musicianship, it should come as no surprise that Cold Duck is renowned for being one of the most versatile bands in existence. Cold Duck continues its tradition of excellent musicianship and groovin’ rhythms. So let’s have a good time dancing the night away!

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The Frostig Center Names Two Leaders in Education to Top Posts

Pasadena, CA – The Frostig Center has appointed Jenny Janetske Head of School and Chris Schnieders the new Director of Research, two highly experienced educators who will strengthen the organization's mission to provide innovative and successful teaching methods to students who learn differently.

"We want to make sure we are always teaching each child in the way he or she learns best," said The Frostig Center's Executive Director Dean Conklin. "Having a strong research department alongside our skilled teaching staff ensures that we always use best practices in how we educate our students."

New Head of School Janetske has extensive experience in special education, as well as curriculum, instruction, professional development, and school leadership, said Conklin. She has a master's degree in educational leadership and 17 years of administrative and teaching experience in the Duarte, Monrovia and Hacienda La Puente school districts.

"I am already very impressed with the teachers and staff at Frostig School," said Janetske. "Everyone is so supportive and generous with their ideas and encouragement. You can feel it."

As Director of Research, Schnieders brings more than 30 years of teaching, research and administrative experience to her new role. Schnieders has a Ph.D. in Special Education, teaches at Azusa Pacific University and California State University, Northridge, and is the former Head of School at Frostig as well as its past Director of Teacher Training.

"This full-time position will also allow us to really take advantage of being in Southern California, where so much work is being done in the field of learning disabilities and high-functioning autism by institutions like USC, UCLA and UCI," said Conklin. "We want to look at all the ongoing research in the area to confirm that we are always using the most effective strategies."

Emphasizing that Frostig's responsibility to its students does not end after 12th grade, Conklin also announced plans to offer a post high school program to help graduates make the best transition



Jenny Janetske



Chris Schnieders

possible to work or college.

"I'm really excited about the direction in which we're going," said Conklin. "We take great pride in being a leader in educating students who learn in a different way. We want to keep it moving forward."

A resource for the San Gabriel and Greater Los Angeles communities, The Frostig Center was founded in 1951 by Dr. Marianne Frostig, a pioneer in the study, diagnosis and treatment of learning differences. Its mission is to improve the lives of children with learning disabilities through an integrated program of research, professional development and community outreach, and the Frostig School. The school offers a full range of academic and support services for children with learning disabilities (such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia and auditory processing disorders), high-functioning autism and ADHD. For additional information about The Frostig Center or School call (626) 791-1255 or visit our website

Huff Education Bill Passes Final Test in Senate

SB 1022 Helps College Students Make Effective Career Choices

SACRAMENTO: The State Senate gave unanimous approval today to legislation authored by Senate Republican Leader Bob Huff (R-Diamond Bar) that will give students and parents an understanding of the value that individual degrees have in the job market. SB 1022 will require the California State University (CSU) system and encourage the University of California (UC) to provide easily understood information, such as median annual wage for degrees that are offered by each institution.

Public universities already have access to this data through state law. Senator Huff's legislation would simply make it available to prospective and current students, and the public.

"Next to purchasing a home, a college diploma is one of the biggest investments we ever make," said Senator Huff. "California students deserve to know what their college degrees are worth, and giving them that information will help guide key career decisions."

SB 1022 will provide access to labor market data – including salary earnings and job placement statistics – for all UC and CSU graduates. This kind of information is critical to the decision making process that faces every student as they will learn what fields of study provide for the greatest of opportunities in terms of finding employment and



salary.

A recent survey discovered that four in ten college graduates find themselves stuck in jobs that don't require a college degree. And nearly half of recent graduates believe they would fare better in the job market if they had pursued a different major.

The study, from the Center for College Affordability and Productivity, found that out of 41.7 million working college graduates in 2010, 48 percent of them – representing more than 20 million people -- held jobs that required less than a bachelor's degree. Thirty-seven percent held jobs that required no more than a high school diploma.

"The least we can do – as policy makers – is to ensure that students are armed with accurate data and information about the labor market," said Senator Huff. "Giving students a picture of college graduate salary earnings and industry placement will allow students to make thoughtful, data-driven decisions about where and what they want to study."

SB 1022 has earned broad support from student leadership, CSU, UC, business leaders and civil rights groups. The measure will be forwarded to the Governor for his signature.

Kids' and Adult Art Classes

Class listings are available on our website
Classes begin September 22nd



Creative Arts Group

108 N. Baldwin Ave. 626.355.8350 www.creativeartsgroup.org

Find us on Facebook by searching
"Creative Arts Group Sierra Madre"

PASADENA UNIFIED LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN APPROVED

Pasadena, CA --- The Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) of the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) has been approved by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). Cited by LACOE as a "high-quality plan," PUSD's LCAP was developed with the input of staff, parents and community members.

PUSD, along with other California school districts, has transitioned to the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) funding model, radically changing how schools are funded in the state of California. LCFF provides new decision-making power to local school districts to act based on the needs they see for students. In addition, this shifts California from treating funding as an input to support students to a resource that is linked to performance expectations.

See the final version of PUSD's LCAP and learn more about PUSD's LCAP process by visiting <http://www.gopUSD.com/LCAP>. PUSD will begin working with the LCAP workgroup in the fall for the 2015-2016 school year.

We'd like
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from you!
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on YOUR
Mind?

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or www.facebook.com/

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

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

Arcadia High School

180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: Brent Forsee
bforsee@ausd.net

Arroyo Pacific Academy

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

Barnhart School

240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 446-5588 Head of School: Ethan Williamson
Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.org

Bethany Christian School

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

Clairbourn School

8400 Huntington Drive
San Gabriel, CA 91775
Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172
FAX: 626-286-1528
E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org

Foothill Oaks Academy

822 Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010
(626) 301-9809
Co-Principals Nancy Lopez and Diane Kieffaber
info@foothilloaksacademy.org
preschool@foothilloaksacademy.org

The Gooden School

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

High Point Academy

1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road Pasadena, Ca. 91107
Headmaster John Higgins
626-798-8989
website: www.highpointacademy.org

LaSalle High School

3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org
Principal Bro. Christopher Brady, FSC

Monrovia High School

325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 471-2800 Principal Darvin Jackson
Email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

Odyssey Charter School

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

Pasadena High School

2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 396-5880 Principal: Gilbert Barraza
barraza.gilbert@pusd.us
website: www.phs.pasadenahigh.org

St. Rita Catholic School

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

Sierra Madre Elementary School

141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428 Principal: Esther Salinas
E-mail address: salinas.esther@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School

160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947 Principal: Garrett Newsom
E-mail address: newsom.garrett@pusd.us

Walden School

74 S San Gabriel Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166
www.waldenschool.net

Weizmann Day School

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

Wilson Middle School

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

PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 396-3600 Website: www.pusd.us

ARCADIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

234 Campus Dr., Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 821-8300 Website: www.ausd.net

MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016
(626) 471-2000 Website: www.monroviashools.net

DUARTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010
(626) 599-5000 Website: www.duarte.k12.ca.us



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THE REEL DEAL: by Ben Show

The Giver Review



When it comes to post-'Hunger Games' futuristic teen movies, they all seem to be the same. However, what makes 'The Giver' so interesting is the source material this film is based on; the book by Lois Lowry covers a very interesting topic.

In a perfect society, Jonas (Brenton Thwaites) is chosen as the new Receiver of Knowledge. Unlike other people, he gets to work with the mysterious man known as the Giver (Jeff Bridges) and learns the secret past of the world he thinks he knows.

This film, like the book, has many plot twists, so the fewer trailers that you have seen for this movie, the better. Try to know as little about this film as possible, if you have not read the book. 'The Giver' is one of the better films in the post-apocalyptic, teen angst genre in recent memory, and is a must see for fans of movies like 'The Host', 'Divergent', and 'Ender's Game'.

IT'S WINE 101

It's been awhile (Holidays) since I have written about my first love, yes sparkling wine, I'll drink it at any time and moment with any meal. Summer rain winter... you get the idea. As long as it's quality It's my first choice from the wine list. Though there is a difference between champagne and sparkling, remember to be champagne the wine must come from that region of France. In 2000 the millennium year, Newsweek magazine did a story on the "best" bubbles for celebrating New Year's I took their advice and 14 years later I am still enjoying Roederer Estate's Brut NV sparkling wine from California's Anderson Valley.

TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills
thechefknows@yahoo.com

On this home assignment I poured the liquid gold into a chilled champagne flute and watched the Tiny bubbles rise persistently forming to and around the rim of the glass. I enjoyed by bubbles with a creamy soft cheese, almonds and a handful of pistachios. Oh my! If the name sounds familiar, it is owned by Louis Roederer estates the same winery that produces Crystal, so the lineage is there. Roederer Estate Brut NV is a traditional method sparkling wine, in that the second fermentation took place in the bottle. It is a blend of about 60% Pinot Noir and 40% Chardonnay, all from estate vineyards.

Dills Score 89

Retail Around \$14 on sale \$11 \$10 if you buy a six pack -wide distribution throughout So Cal

Each week I will give you my Dills Score. Starting with a base of 50 points, I added 8 points for color, 7 points for aroma or "nose", 8 points for taste, 9 points for finish, and 9 points for my overall impression, which includes my value rating.

Email Peter at thechefknows@yahoo.com and follow me on Twitter @KINGOFCUISINE. Listen to Dining w/Dills on KLA 830 AM on Sundays at 11 AM PM



AM 830



COMPETITORS IN SIP-TEMBER COCKTAIL BRACKET CHALLENGE UNVEILED TO THE PUBLIC

Voting is Live Online at www.pasadenarestaurantweek.com/vote



64 drinks vie to be named favorite during six-week cocktail bracket challenge throughout Pasadena

Pasadena, CA- Patrons decide which cocktail is Pasadena's favorite during SIP-tember: a celebration of the cocktail in Pasadena. Through September 25th, local restaurants will serve cocktails that will be paired against each other in a competition. 64 cocktails, ranging from drinks specially concocted for the competition to margaritas and sangria, begin the competition that lasts six weeks and culminates in a live taste-off of the four drinks that win their bracket.

Brackets were unveiled on the Pasadena Restaurant Week website on Thursday, August 14th at 2pm. Which drinks will work their way through the competition for a chance to vie for the title Pasadena's Favorite Cocktail 2014? Will Roy's Hawaiian Martini or Speakeasy at New York Deli's New Old Fashioned make it through to round 2? Will Green Street Restaurant's Broten Buck advance against the ix-tapa Sunrise?? Will the Orange Julius from Clearman's Galley move forward against SORRISO's Cantaloupe Martini? Will Vertical Wine Bistro's Lolita best the Moscow Mule from Kings Row Gastropub? Will the Frozen Hot Chocolate from Bar 1886 at the Raymond prevail over the Spicy mango Smash from Dog Haus Biergarten?

Drinks are chosen completely at random for the pairings. "I am very impressed with the drinks entered in this year's SIP-tember Cocktail Bracket Challenge," said Pasadena Chamber CEO Paul Little. "The variety, creativity and skill from all the competitors has really enhanced the level of competition this year. Good luck to all the competitors."

The 64 cocktails competing in 32 brackets will be available for viewing at the Pasadena Restaurant Week website at www.pasadenarestaurantweek.com on Thursday, August 8th, a week before the competition goes live online.

The first challenge takes place over two weeks and pit 32 pairs of cocktails against each other. Each week following the winners will be paired head-to-head with another winning cocktail until, on September 25th, the four finalists will be matched in a live tasting at The Rose Bowl in Pasadena to determine Pasadena's favorite cocktail. Voting in the cocktail bracket challenge went live online on Wednesday, August 15th.

For SIP-tember, lounges and restaurants have entered specialty cocktails, traditional drinks, margaritas, sangrias, and all manner of mixed drink. The full list of those taking part in SIP-tember and the Citywide Julia Child Cocktail Party can be found at www.pasadenarestaurantweek.com. Voting is live at www.pasadenarestaurantweek.com/vote.

SIP-tember kicked off with a citywide cocktail party to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of America's first celebrity chef and Pasadena's own Julia Child. Patrons were encouraged to dress for a 1950s, 1960s or 1970s era cocktail party.

The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association is a professional business organization. Since the earliest days of Pasadena, the Chamber has played a major role in the development of this internationally renowned city. Since 1888, when the organization was founded as the Board of Trade, the Chamber's primary purpose has been the enhancement of both the business climate and the quality of life in Pasadena. The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce serves 1500 members.

GALE KOHL & FRIENDS DO TOMATOES!

At the Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007
Wednesday, September 17, 3-5pm
\$50 Arboretum members; \$60 non-members (includes garden admission)
Reservations Required: please call the Class Reservation Line at 626.821.4623

Summer means heat...vacation...heat...watermelons...camp...AND TOMATOES!!! Just outside of the Oak Room where the Fresh Cooking classes are held is a garden filled with all varieties of tomato plants to celebrate the season. These tomato plants were all generously donated by Gary Jones of Armstrong Garden Centers so do watch their growth progress as you walk by!

However, NO picking please as those wonderful fruits (yes...tomatoes are a fruit!) plus a few others will be the main ingredient in a delectable and fun class by Gale Kohl (of Gale's Restaurant) and Her Friends in September that focuses on "all things tomato." How about tomato sorbet?

Gale's Restaurant is consistently voted one of the very best and most popular establishments in the greater San Gabriel Valley!
Gale's Restaurant: 452 S. Fair Oaks Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91105; 626-432-6705; www.galesrestaurant.com



INGREDIENTS:

3 lbs	Chicken Parts
2 pkg	Good Seasons Italian or Mild Italian Salad Dressing Mix Used Dry From The Package
3 tsp	Flour
2 tsp	Salt
¼ cup	Lemon Juice or Vinegar
2 tsp	Margarine or Cooking Oil
1½ pt	Cooking Oil
2 cup	Milk or Club Soda or Beer
	Aunt Jemima Pancake Flour

DIRECTIONS:

Make a paste of the flour Good Seasonings and lemon juice. Spread this evenly over dry chicken pieces. Stack in bowl; cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours or better yet overnight. About 1 hour before serving, heat oil in heavy saucepan 9-inches in diameter with depth of oil about 3-inches to a temperature of 425 degrees. Put milk in deep narrow bowl and dip each piece chicken in the liquid, letting excess drip off. Dust lightly but evenly in the pancake flour. DO NOT OVERCOAT!!! Dry pieces a few minutes without letting them touch each other on wire rack. Fry a few pieces at a time for 5-6 minutes each. Place on sprayed cookie sheet without letting them touch each other and bake uncovered in a 350 oven for 30 minutes.

Get ready for the most exciting, creative sale in the San Gabriel Valley:

THE ANNUAL CREATIVE ARTS GROUP FLEA MARKET

An amazing assortment of fun and useful items will be up for grabs, including framed artworks, picture frames, toys, crafts, collectibles of all kind, furniture, books, sporting goods, videos, music, and unexpected odds and ends. The event always offers plenty of surprises.

It will be held 9am to 3pm Sept. 6 at 108 N. Baldwin Avenue, Sierra Madre.

Creative Arts Group has served the community for more than 50 years by providing a wide array of classes in the fine arts for hobbyists and professionals alike. Popular classes include drawing and painting, ceramics, textile art and jewelry-making.

The organization also provides free art classes every year for every student at Sierra Madre Elementary School.

Another popular event is the upcoming Sierra Madre Scarecrow Festival in which residents compete for awards and everyone can vote for their favorites.

The Festival will kick off with a workshop Sept. 13. Registration will open Sept. 19 and contestants have until Sept. 28 to submit their work. The winning scarecrows will be honored at a ceremony on Oct. 17, and will be on display at city hall through November.

For information on the Flea Market and the Scarecrow Festival, call the Creative Arts Group at (626) 355-8350.

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by Chris Leclerc

Proper Etiquette For Walking Your Pet

A local friend of mine recently told me about an incident that occurred a week or two ago while she was out walking with her dog in town. She and her small pup (a darling, dainty mystery-breed rescue dog) were pleasantly padding along the path when another person suddenly emerged from around the corner with a dog on-leash and started walking up the hill towards them. As the two duo-teams drew closer, they quickly closed the space gap between, and my friend realized that the other dog was looking more and more excited, and possibly getting agitated at the sight of her own dog swiftly coming into close proximity.

In an effort to prevent a less-than-friendly confrontation between the two dogs, my friend decided to take the proverbial path of least resistance by detouring down and around a car that was parked on the side of the road, in hopes that the other 'dog team' would get the message and pass on by peacefully without incident.

As it turned out, the other dog walker apparently did not get the message, and instead of moving along, she turned her dog toward where they were and moved in the same direction, as if she was hoping for an impromptu meet and greet right there in the street! Fortunately for all involved, there was no traffic at the time, so my friend was able to walk her dog across the street before a would-be potential tussle could ensue.

When I heard this story, my first thought was, "It would have been so easy to neutralize the stress apparently caused by two people and their dogs passing on the street, if there could have been just a bit of clear, kind communication." My second thought had more to do with wishing dog walkers, in general would practice better etiquette while they are out and about with their pets in public.

In my humble opinion, the approaching dog walker in that case should have paid way more attention to the body language displayed by my friend who was already headed down the street before she turned that way. If she had been more aware, she may have also been more sensitive to the space that may have been needed between them, while passing by and could have acted accordingly.

Perhaps she felt the need to stand her ground and exercise her right to walk her dog wherever she wished, regardless of the circumstances. I'm not sure about her, but I personally prefer to keep things as simple and sane as possible when I am walking dogs in public. It is a simple task, to avoid a negative confrontation between two leashed dogs, if you are aware of your surroundings. And, it can't hurt to speak...you know, use the voice as a mechanism

for communication? This may sound silly to some, in this new age of constant texting and messaging, but to me it is nothing more than simple common sense.

Then there was another acquaintance of mine who recently reminded me of how much she wishes people would be better about cleaning up after their pets while they are wandering out and about, and I happen to agree with her 100%. I've stepped in more than my fair share of felonious forgotten stools, and I've even gone to the trouble of picking up putrid poops left behind by others, but now I'm all done with that. Anyone with the brain power enough to own and (hopefully) care for a domestic pet should know there is a law against leaving their four-legged furry friend's feces sitting like a land-mine on the sidewalk or on a neighbor's lawn. Maybe the dog poop pickup code needs to be more consistently enforced to achieve desired results. At least it might generate a bit of extra revenue for the city.

One very interesting comment I heard recently voiced by a non-pet-owner is that he cannot stand it when people walking their dogs will allow uninvited contact between himself and the beast they have on leash. Well, being the avid animal lover that I am, I find it hard to imagine resisting contact with a friendly furry four-leggeder that may happen across my path, but I do try my best to understand the minds of people who prefer not to keep close company with canines and I recognize and respect their right to dine on the sidewalks of our town, without being forced to interact with other peoples' pets.

The collective comments I have mentioned above are what drove me to write this article and remind locals in Sierra Madre to use proper etiquette while sharing the road, trail or sidewalk with other people and their pets in public. Please use your common sense in communicating with your fellow animal lovers. Be aware of the laws and rules that pertain to owning a pet and taking them out for a leisurely walk. Let your dog teach you a few lessons for a change! Based on my experience, the animals seem to be able to work these things out pretty swiftly and smoothly, if given the opportunity in the absence of human intervention.

I believe that social skills are not necessarily inherent with one's lifestyle. I think the learning process begins with early childhood teaching and influence followed by life-long training and practice. As pet owners and dog walkers, let's all do our best to be aware of the responsibilities that come with the privileges we enjoy. Show respect to others, and do your best to prevent unwanted insult or injury. And as always, above all, love and let live!

LOOKING FOR A BEST FRIEND?

Looking For A Best Friend?? To share adventures with? So is Midnight!

Midnight is a very handsome and lovable 4 year old, 19 lb black and brown Mini Pinscher boy who was found roaming the streets around the 4th of July.

His owner was contacted but never came to pick him up. During his first couple weeks at the shelter, Midnight was scared and confused about his whereabouts. But since volunteers have been taking him out for walks and playtime, he has become more relaxed, happy, playful, and affectionate.

Midnight is very friendly, social and made lots of friends. He loves people and other dogs. With his cute smile and happy disposition, he eagerly greets you and will climb and curl up in your lap when you sit down. He loves it when you give him cuddles, pets, belly and back massages. Midnight is also very nurturing and loving to his kennel mate, and is always watching over him.

Midnight is strong, agile, and has medium high energy on his walks. He loves to have fun and run on his walks. He is also observant, smart and quick to pick up on activities shown to him and would learn and do well with the right training courses. He loves a challenge to focus on. He quickly caught on to chasing after toys and bringing them back for more play. It also didn't take him long to jump into a kids' wading pool to retrieve a fun toy!

Midnight's dream is to be loved and live out his life with a best friend or family who are active and like to have fun like he does. A home with a big yard to run and play in would be ideal. And if there is another dog or two to hang out and play with, he would love that! Are you or someone you know the one he is looking for? If so, please come to the shelter to meet him! He is waiting there for you.

He currently resides at the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society located at 851 E. Grand Avenue in San Gabriel with his roommate. We are located off San Gabriel Blvd., north of Mission and south of Las Tunas.

To arrange a 'Meet and Greet' with Midnight, please stop by any time from 10:00am to 4:30pm Tuesday thru Sunday.

His adoption fee is \$120 which includes a microchip, neuter surgery, first vaccinations and a free wellness



check-up at a participating veterinarian. Feel free to call us at (626) 286-1159 for more information on Midnight. See our website at www.sgvhumane.org for information and photos of all our available pets.

Join us as we celebrate our 90th anniversary on September 27th with an Open House Block Party. Since 1924, the shelter has been serving the San Gabriel Valley and all past adopters are invited to bring their dogs and walk in our alumni parade. From noon to 5pm, there will be carnival games, food trucks, and vendors as well as doggie tattoos and games.

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Join Sierra Madre Police Department as we discuss important safety information for your children this school year!

San Gabriel Valley Humane Society

90th Anniversary Community Celebration

September 27th 2014
Noon – 5 pm

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about it. One day she came in all excited. She told me that she had taken a class that had changed her whole practice because the teacher said to 'link the movement to the breath'. I couldn't believe it! I said that all the time, many times in class. Had she not heard me? How could this be? We ALL say that. I asked other students, "Do you hear me say that?" They all said of course! And then I understood. We hear different things from different people at different times. It could be the very same sentence, but we may not be ready to hear it, or we block out the way one person says things and hear them from another. From that day on, I asked the Universe to send me students that could hear me. It's not

I had a student once that had been coming to me for some time. She came every week, but didn't seem all that crazy

really about me at all. It's about the lessons in the tradition. I am just the messenger. But my unique personality can really get through to some people, but not all.

This is why it is so important to find the right teacher. We need to hear what they are teaching us. Then we can go to other classes and enjoy them.

To find your true teacher is huge. This is totally different than just taking classes. It is a very personal relationship. We need to be inspired and given lessons that are specific to each of us. After it clicks, then we need to stick with that teacher. We cannot decide that we do not like the lesson of the day and switch teachers. We need to trust in the process. I am so pleased that we have so many amazing teachers at our studio. Come and get inspired – there are so many choices!

See you in class.
Namasté,
René



Dr. Tina is a traditional naturopath and nutritionist at Vibrant Living Wellness Center

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IS YOUR FEMALE VITALITY NOT UP TO PAR?

Menopause can be a trying time in the lives of many women, affecting day to day activities, mental clarity, and mood. Many women find relief from annoying menopause symptoms using herbs as they have less side effects compared with hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Here are four very effective herbs for menopause.

Black Cohosh: Probably one of the most trying symptoms of menopause are hot flashes. The use of Black cohosh to ease menopause symptoms is nothing new. This herb has been used for centuries as a powerful tool for alleviating hot flashes. Black cohosh effectively reduces hot flash occurrence, duration and intensity.

Ginseng: A great general-purpose herb for menopause. Menopausal women will often feel physically drained because of symptoms, such as hot flashes which can deplete energy. Sleep is often interrupted thanks to hot flashes. Ginseng may help by possibly supporting healthy sleep cycles and aiding relaxation. Its primary menopausal benefit is its ability to support vitality and ease stress.

Wild Yam: This is native to North America and has been used for both cycling and menopausal symptoms. Wild yam contains an ingredient similar to DHEA which is a precursor to human sex hormones.

Tribulus: The leaves and stems of Tribulus make it a great menopausal herb because it promotes vitality and stamina, supports physical endurance and promotes an overall feeling of well-being. Note: quality Tribulus is only found in the Central European regions of Bulgaria and Slovakia. For optimum outcome make sure your Tribulus is sourced from these regions.

Midlife should be a time women look forward too. It should be a time to do the things you have always wanted since family responsibilities usually ease at this time. Menopausal symptoms do not have to hold you back from doing all the things you have been waiting to do. Along with drinking plenty of water and eating a whole foods diet there are herbs that can help you transition easily through this time in your life.

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A Must See!

The envy of Architectural Digest, welcome home to your private oasis, magnificent city/mountain views, nestled in the peaceful, upper canyon of Marlborough Terrace. This 2-story artistic beauty has been completely remodeled in 2008. It has 1,604 sq.ft. of living area, but appears much larger due to high beam ceilings. It has 2 bdrm plus a spacious loft which can be used as a 3rd bdrm since it has a large closet. The full bath downstairs has custom tile, river-stone flooring in the shower and double vanity sink. The living room has large windows from floor to ceiling to marvel over the views, hardwood custom flooring, and brick, wood burning, fireplace. The open-concept kitchen has state of the art appliances, gorgeous maple cabinets, and terra cotta tile flooring. The backyard has a pool and a spa overlooking the city lights and valley. The landscaping is impressive and perfect for entertaining. This home has too many amenities to list. Please come see for yourself.

Janette Ledeo
 Realtor/Consultant E-Pro, GRI, and CDPE
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HOW TO GET SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS WHEN YOU'RE DISABLED

Dear Savvy Senior:
What do I need to do to get Social Security disability? I'm 57 years old and have some health issues that are keeping me from working, but I've heard it's very difficult to get benefits. Need Assistance

Dear Need:

The process of getting Social Security disability benefits can be tricky and time-consuming, but you can help yourself by doing your homework and getting prepared.

Last year, around 3 million people applied for Social Security disability benefits, but two-thirds of them were denied, because most applicants fail to prove that they're disabled and can't work. Here are some steps you can take that will improve your odds.

Get Informed

The first thing you need to find out is if your health problem qualifies you for Social Security disability benefits.

You generally will be eligible only if you have a health problem that is expected to prevent you from working in your current line of work (or any other line of work that you have been in over the past 15 years) for at least a year, or result in death.

There is no such thing as a partial disability benefit. If you're fit enough to work part-time, your application will be denied. You also need not apply if you still are working with the intention of quitting if your application is approved, because if you're working your application will be denied. Your skill set and age are factors too. Your application will be denied if your work history suggests that you have the skills to preform a less physically demanding job that your disability does not prevent you from doing.

To help you determine if you are disabled, visit ssa.gov/dibplan/dqualify5.htm and go through the five questions Social Security uses to determine disability.

How to Apply

If you believe you have a claim, your next step is to gather up your personal, financial and medical information so you can be prepared and organized for the application process.

You can apply either online at ssa.gov/applyfordisability, or call 800-772-1213 to make an appointment to apply at your local Social Security office or to set up an appointment for



someone to take your claim over the phone.

The whole process lasts about an hour. If you schedule an appointment, a "Disability Starter Kit" that will help you get ready for your interview will be mailed to you. If you apply online, the kit is available at ssa.gov/disability.

It takes three to five months from the initial application to receive either an award or denial of benefits. The only exception is if you have a chronic illness that qualifies you for a "compassionate allowance" (see ssa.gov/compassionateallowances), which fast tracks cases within weeks.

If Social Security denies your initial application, you can appeal the decision, and you'll be happy to know that roughly half of all cases that go through a round or two of appeals end with benefits being awarded. But the bad news is with backlog of about 900,000 people currently waiting for a hearing it may take a year or longer for you to get one.

Get Help

You can hire a representative to help you with your Social Security disability claim. By law, representatives can charge only 25 percent of past-due benefits up to a maximum of \$6,000, if they win your case.

It's probably worth hiring someone at the start of the application process if your disability is something difficult to prove such as chronic pain. If, however, your disability is obvious, it might be worth initially working without a representative to avoid paying the fee. You can always hire a representative later if your initial application and first appeal are denied.

To find a representative, check with the National Association of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (nossr.org, 800-431-2804) or National Association of Disability Representatives (nadr.org, 800-747-6131). Or, if you're low-income, contact the Legal Services Corporation (lsc.gov/find-legal-aid) for free assistance.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



KATIE Tse.....This and That JUNK --A CAUTIONARY TALE

"A place for everything, and everything in its place." This is a familiar platitude along with other classics such as, "Cleanliness is next to godliness" and "Have nothing in your home that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful." And then there's my personal favorite, "If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the house." I wonder if the dusty pile of sneakers and flip flops in my closet implicates a questionable character, a disharmonious dwelling, or both? But it gets worse, "If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world." Shoot! Now I've got the responsibility for world peace on my guilty conscience!

Although keeping ahead of my own junk is a challenge, I can only begin to imagine the physical and mental exhaustion of going through someone else's stuff! This is the daunting feat my parents are dealing with at the moment. Before they retired, neither of them had the time or energy to sort through the things they had accumulated over the years. And when my grandparents passed, my parents inherited even more stuff. Some people prefer to keep their things out of sight and out of mind in storage, but that's expensive! Therefore, my parents' things occupied the living room for a while, and then spilled over into the back room. They finally condensed it all into a tightly packed area in the garage while the house was being remodeled.

When I say that they used the garage for storage, I don't just mean that they stacked things up. Oh no! Every last cubic inch of available space was jam packed to the gills. This meant that some furniture was taken apart so that it would better fit into the limited space. When my husband and

I moved into our house in February, my parents said we could have their old dining room table (to replace the TV trays we're accustomed to eating off of). I suppose there's something inherently disorderly and tacky about TV trays --that's probably why we haven't achieved world peace yet. Anyway, our table was trapped in "the core" of stuff for a long time. Every so often I'd catch a glimpse of a leg sticking out at an odd angle like an appendage in a Picasso painting.

At last their building project is done, and now they're faced with deconstructing the core in the garage. Mind you the garage dates back to the 50's. It vacillates between freezing in the winter and sweltering in the summer. So you can imagine my parents' discomfort toting boxes around and dodging avalanches of "the sands of time" --literally!

But any physical exertion pales in comparison to the difficulty of their decisions as to which of the things they should keep and which they should get rid of. One small box often holds a multitude of miscellaneous items from generations ago, all with a certain amount of sentimental value.

It doesn't seem to help much whether or not there's a logical reason to keep the stuff in question. The other day my mom asked me if I wanted my old bassinet or any of its blankets or other things. "Did you make any of them?" I asked. "Yes, a couple of blankets," she said. "Okay, I'll keep them." "What are you going to do with them?" she asked. "I don't know. I can't get rid of them. You made them!"

Well, after many weeks and much deliberation, the clutter in the garage is starting to thin out. My dad's work bench is almost visible, so hopefully he'll be able to return to his ship model building before 2015. And my husband and I just recently brought home our very first proper dining table and chairs. Maybe world peace is within our grasp!



SENIOR HAPPENINGS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ... August Birthdays*

Bill Nelson, Karlene Englert, Juanita Fernandez, Jeanette Francis, Joseph Kiss, John Luke, Jacquie Pergola, Maury Whitaker, Pat Miranda, Phyllis Chapman, Jerry Burnett, Margaret Aroyan, Phyllis Burg, Beverly Clifton, Rosemary Morabito, Susan Poulsen, Dorothy Quentmeyer, Genevieve Stubbs, Miep Tulleners, Joy Barry, Ellie Baudino, Marcia Bent, Daryls Brechwald, Joan Spears, Ruth Torres, Jane Zamanzadeh and Harry Enmark.

*To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required.

Quote of the Week:

I distrust camels, and anyone else who can go a week without a drink.
Joe E. Lewis



ACTIVITIES:

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

YMCA San Gabriel Valley Intervale Senior Café: Monday-Friday at 12:00 Noon (Participants are urged to arrive no later than 11:45 A.M.)

All seniors 60 and up can take part in the lunch program. There is a suggested donation of \$2.00 for those 60 and over and \$3.75 for non-senior guests. Daily reservations are necessary as space is limited. Please call 24 hours in advance...626.355.0256

Free Balance Class: Every 3rd Monday, from 11:00 to 11:45 am with Shannon. All ability levels are encouraged and welcomed.

Hawaiian and Polynesian Dance Class: Every Tuesday morning from 10:00am to 11:00am. Join instructor Barbara Dempsey as she instructs you in the art of hula.

Bingo: Every Tuesday beginning at 1:00pm. Cards are only \$0.25 each! Everyone is welcome to join. May be canceled if less than 5 people. Canceled on August 5th and 12th.

Free Blood Pressure Testing: Held 2nd Tuesday of the month from 11:00am to 12:00pm. No appointment is necessary.

Free Legal Consultation: Wednesday, August 27th from 10:00am to Noon. Attorney Lem Makupson is available for legal consultation. He specializes in Family Law, Wills, Trusts, Estates, and Injury. For an appointment call 626-355-7394.

Chair Yoga: Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 to 11:45 am, except on the third Monday of the month when the balance class is held. A suggested donation of \$5 at one of the classes is requested, but is not required.

Birthday Celebrations: Every second Thursday of the month the Hart Park House Senior Center celebrates birthdays of our patrons. The free birthday cake is provided by the Sierra Madre Civic Club.

Game Day: Every Thursday starting at 12:45pm. A regular group of seniors play poker. Other games available for use.

Free Strength Training Class: Every Friday from 12:45pm to 1:30pm with Lisa Brandley. The class utilizes light weights for low impact resistance training. All materials for the class are provided.



UPCOMING EXCURSIONS

Homeboy Industries and Home Girl Cafe (Los Angeles, CA)

Date: Thursday, August 21, 2014

Time: 8:45am to 2:30pm Meeting Location: Hart Park House Senior Center Cost: \$12.00 (does not include lunch). Come venture out and take the Gold Line to Homeboy Industries. You will have the chance to see Homeboy's Programs in-action, gain a better understanding of how the social enterprises work, and discover the sense of community that exists for the young men and women who come though their doors seeking to leave their gang involvements behind and find hope in their futures. Tour is followed by lunch at Home Girl Café, where they provide a wide selection of choices to choose from. Participants are asked to bring additional money for souvenirs and lunch. Last Day to register is Monday, August 18th. Level of Walking: High. Please note: public transportation will be used for this trip including MTA buses and the Gold Line; TAP cards will be provided to you. If you have any concerns please contact the Senior Center.

Gondola Getaway (Long Beach, CA) Date: Friday, September 19, 2014

Time: 9:15am to 3:15pm Meeting Location: Hart Park House Senior Center Cost: \$30.00 (does not include lunch) The Gondola Getaway brings old world charm and a thousand year old tradition to Long Beach. Authentic Venetian gondolas gently cruise the enchanting canals and waterways of Naples Island near the resort area of Belmont Shores in Long Beach. Join us for an hourlong cruise followed by lunch at one of the charming restaurants in Belmont Shores. Participants are asked to bring \$20 for lunch. Level of Walking: Low

Excursion Refund Policy: Notification of the cancellation must be made at least 3 business days before the excursion. A refund will only be issued 1) for a medical excuse or 2) if the Department is able to fill the patrons spot from a waiting list. This refund will be issued in the form of a credit which will be applied to the patron's account with the City, less a \$10 cancellation fee. The credit will remain on your account for one year from the date issued and the credit may be used for any program or service offered by the Community Services Department.

1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY Shown at the Hart Park House Senior Center



AUGUST 6TH: LINCOLN (2012)

As the Civil War continues to rage, America's president struggles with continuing carnage on the battlefield and as he fights with many inside his own cabinet on the decision to emancipate the slaves. Rated PG-13. Start time: 1:00 pm (run time 150 minutes) Featuring: Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field, David Strathairn, Tommy Lee Jones.

AUGUST 20TH: PHILOMENA (2013)

A world-weary political journalist picks up the story of a woman's search for her son, who was taken away from her decades ago after she became pregnant and was forced to live in a convent. Rated PG-13, Start time: 1:00 pm (run time 98 minutes) Featuring: Judi Dench, Steve Coogan.

MARLEY & ME (2008) will also be shown on August 27th as part of the Dog Days

LUNCH & LEARN PRESENTATION - PASADENA HERITAGE

Wednesday, August 27, 2014 • 12:00-1:00 pm

Take a look back into the history of the San Gabriel Valley and uncover the early beginnings of the cities of San Gabriel, Arcadia, San Marino, and Pasadena. Meet the Gabriellino Indians, the Indiana Colonists, and the investors who took part in the real estate boom of the turn of the century. Discover why the founders, developers and early settlers of the San Gabriel Valley made this area their home and why we appreciate, continue to appreciate and preserve it today. If you are interested in having lunch with the Senior Lunch Cafe during the presentation please call 626-355-0256 to make a reservation; otherwise, you may bring your own.

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER • AUGUST 25-29, 2014

Hot dog, it's HOT out there! Escape the August heat and join us for a fun-filled week of activities!

• **Monday, August 25th** kicks off our "Cutest Dog Competition." To enter the competition, either bring in a picture of your canine cutie with your name and phone number written on the back or email a copy to kschnurr@cityofsierramadre.com. All pictures will be displayed in the Senior Center and voting will take place throughout the week. Be sure to come in and cast your vote for who's the cutest! The winner will be announced Friday, August 29th at the Hot Dog Dinner and will receive a prize.

• **Tuesday, August 26th**, 12:00pm- Satisfy your sweet tooth and come enjoy "dog treats" with lunch. You are welcome to either bring your own packed lunch or eat from the Senior Lunch Café. If you choose to eat from the Senior Lunch Café, please make a lunch reservation at 626-355-0256.

• **Wednesday, August 27th**, 1:00pm- Marley & Me, a heart-wrenching film about a mischievous Labrador, will be shown in the Senior Center at 1 pm. If you haven't seen it already, it is a must see for all ages!

• **Thursday, August 28th**, 12:30pm- Two therapy dogs from Methodist Hospital will be visiting the Senior Center at 12:30pm to sit with anyone who would like a little extra love.

• **Friday, August 29th**, 4:30-6:00pm - To cap off the Dogs Days of Summer, Gables of Monrovia will be catering a complimentary Hot Dog Dinner. Hot dogs will be served in addition to delicious side dishes. Other activities such as a prize raffle are planned to guarantee a fun time. R.S.V.P. to Kyle or Tracy at 626-355-7394. All reservations must be in by noon on August 25th.

TECH TALK: TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE

Mondays, August 11th and 25th 2:00 to 3:00 PM Tech-savvy youth from Sierra Madre Middle School will provide assistance with the operation of cell phones, tablets, and computers. Participants should bring the device with which they need assistance; computers are available at the Senior Center for general instruction. The class is free of charge, but registration is required. To register, or for questions regarding the program call 626.355.7394.

CITY OF ARCADIA PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

The City of Arcadia Recreation & Community Services Department - Senior Services Division in partnership with Neurosearch, Inc. of Pasadena provides the Parkinson' Support Group for individuals with movement disorders, their family and friends willing to learning about this disease. The meeting dates are the third Friday of each month at 1:30pm, at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive, Arcadia CA 91007. Come out to receive important information from guest speakers and enjoy light refreshments served. Meeting dates are: Friday's, August 15th, September 19th, October 17th and November 21st. For more information or to register, call Arcadia Senior Services at 626.574.5130.

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SEAN'S SHAMELESS REVIEWS:

By Sean Kayden
Let's Be Cops

"Let's Be Cops" is the latest buddy comedy to have hit theaters this summer. In fact, it's the last R-rated comedy of the season. Is it worth the price of admission? Well, that's a tricky one. The film is no "22 Jump Street" (which debuted earlier this summer).

While in that film, the leads are actually cops impersonating college students, "Let's Be Cops" features two best friends who don't know a thing about being a police officer. The film has some good laughs and quite a few small chuckles mainly through the first half of the film. When act three becomes more "serious," the laughs are conspicuously lacking. The plot was pretty generic and loose. Most of the funny scenes felt like sketches than rather part of the main storyline. "Let's Be Cops" wasn't as humorous as I was anticipating, but it's not a total waste either. The film stars Jake M. Johnson and Damon Wayans Jr., (coincidentally both portray characters in the TV series, The New Girl.) as two struggling 30 year-old buddies that kind of lost their way after college. Johnson, plays Ryan, an ex-QB for Purdue, who suffered a knee injury that ended any shot he had for the pros. He came to LA to be an actor, where he's been living off an \$11,000 check for a herpes commercial he did two years ago. Wayans portrays Justin, an assistant at a videogame company where no one gives him the time of day for a dream project he wants to create. The two attend a "costume" party for their college reunion in LA dressed up as police officers. Ryan, confused masquerade with costume party and the two guys become somewhat of a laughing stock with their ridiculous outfits.

Dejected and wanting to move back to Ohio, the two guys are mistaken for police officers walking down a busy boulevard. After a few funny encounters, Ryan takes the idea of impersonating cops even further. When they are deemed heroes at a local diner, they eventually find themselves getting tangled up in a real life crime situation.

Ryan is all for it, but Justin doesn't want take things next to the next level. However, when things at work don't pan out for Justin, he's easily persuaded to join forces (especially since he has a crush on a girl at the diner, who thinks he's something special). The setup is actually not bad, but unfortunately the film's writers struggle with developing it into something much bigger than what it ended up becoming. The steady script flaws and sitcom-y situations become a burden for

Directed By: Luke Greenfield
Written By: Luke Greenfield, Nicholas Thomas
Rated R for language including sexual references, some graphic nudity, violence and drug use
Release Date: August 13th, 2014

"Let's Be Cops" as it enters the second half.

The film navigates through the normal tropes found in these genre films. The bad guys are nothing special and there's the inevitable plot twist that doesn't seem organic. It feels cheap, ripped off from other, better films. I don't want to give away too much here because frankly, there's not a lot of story involved within the 104 minutes running time. Johnson and Waynes have tons of chemistry together. I really like both actors and strongly believe they have bright futures in comedies (especially Jake Johnson, who was fantastic in 2012's "Safety Not Guaranteed"). Unfortunately, the two had little to work with "Let's Be Cops." Their natural comedic talents lifted the film above mediocrity. In the end, "Let's Be Cops" is mildly funny, but not nearly consistent enough, which is a shame given the decent concept and dynamic duo on screen.

Grade: 3 out of 5

Jeff's Book Picks

By Jeff Brown

Edgar Allan Poe: The Fever Called Living by Paul Collins Looming large in the popular imagination as a serious poet and lively drunk who died in penury, Edgar Allan Poe was also the most celebrated and notorious writer of his day. He died broke and alone at the age of forty, but not before he had written some of the greatest works in the English language, from the chilling "The Tell-Tale Heart" to "The Murders in the Rue Morgue", the first modern detective story, to the iconic poem "The Raven." Poe's life was one of unremitting hardship. His father abandoned the family, and his mother died when he was three. Poe was thrown out of West Point, and married his beloved thirteen-year-old cousin, who died of tuberculosis at twenty-four. He was so poor that he burned furniture to stay warm. He was a scourge to other poets, but more so to himself. In the hands of Paul Collins, one of our liveliest historians, this mysteriously conflicted figure emerges as a genius both driven and undone by his artistic ambitions. Collins illuminates Poe's huge successes and greatest flop (a 143-page prose poem titled Eureka), and even tracks down what may be Poe's first published fiction, long hidden under an enigmatic byline. Edgar Allan Poe is a spellbinding story about the man once hailed as "the Shakespeare of America."

To the Edge of the World: The Story of the Trans-Siberian Express, the World's Greatest Railroad by Christian Wolmar

To the Edge of the World is an adventure in travel, full of extraordinary personalities, more than a century of explosive political, economic, and cultural events, and almost inconceivable feats of engineering. Wolmar recounts the origins of the railroad, the vital artery for Russian expansion that spans almost 6,000 miles and seven time zones from Moscow to Vladivostok. The world's longest train route took a decade to build, in the face of punishing climates, rampant disease, scarcity of funds and materials, and widespread corruption. Once built, it led to the establishment of new cities and transformed the region's history. Exceeding all expectations, it

became, "the best thing that ever happened to Siberia." It was not all good news, however. The railroad was the cause of the 1904-1905 Russo-Japanese War, and played a vital, and at times bloody, role in the Russian Revolution and the subsequent Civil War. More positively, the Russians were able to resist the Nazi invasion during



the Second World War as new routes enabled whole industries to be sent east. And what began as one meandering, single-track line is now, arguably, the world's most important railroad.

The Book of Unknown Americans: A novel by

Cristina Henríquez

A boy and a girl who fall in love. Two families whose hopes collide with destiny. An extraordinary novel that offers a resonant new definition of what it means to be American. Arturo and Alma Rivera have lived their whole lives in Mexico. One day, their beautiful fifteen-year-old daughter,

Maribel, sustains a terrible injury, one that casts doubt on whether she'll ever be the same. And so, leaving all they have behind, the Riveras come to America with a single dream: that in this country of great opportunity and resources, Maribel can get better. When Mayor Toro, whose family is from Panama, sees Maribel in a Dollar Tree store, it is love at first sight. It's also the beginning of a friendship between the Rivera and Toro families, whose web of guilt and love and responsibility is at this novel's core. Woven into their stories are the testimonials of men and women who have come to the United States from all over Latin America. Their journeys and their voices will inspire you, surprise you, and break your heart. Suspenseful, wry and immediate, rich in spirit and humanity, The Book of Unknown Americans is a work of rare force and originality.

Kids' and Adult Art Classes

Class listings are available on our website
Classes begin September 22nd





Creative Arts Group


108 N. Baldwin Ave. 626.355.8350 www.creativeartsgroup.org

Find us on Facebook by searching "Creative Arts Group Sierra Madre"

On the Marquee: Notes from the Sierra Madre Playhouse

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SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE

6 RMS RIV VU

A COMEDY BY BOB RANDALL

DIRECTED BY SHERRIE LOFTON
AUGUST 1 - SEPTEMBER 6, 2014
FOR TICKETS CALL (626) 355-4318 OR VISIT SIERRAMADREPLAYHOUSE.ORG

SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE

6 RMS RIV VU

A COMEDY BY BOB RANDALL
Directed by Sherrie Lofton

Cast Lena Bouton, Albert Garnica, Jeremy Guskin*, Jill Maglione*, Craig McEldowney*, Bob Rodriguez, Lynndi Scott*, Kristin Towers-Rowles*

*Members of AEA, the Union of Professional Actors & Stage Managers

It is 1972 in New York City and rent-controlled apartments are in hot demand. Anne Miller, a stay-at-home mom, wants a spectacular find, a 6 room pre-war with a Hudson River view – but Paul Friedman, an advertising exec has also come to see it. A faulty doorknob forces these strangers into sudden intimacy. Romantic sparks ignite and each considers more than a move to a new apartment.

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Special performances Sunday, Aug 17 at 7:00 & Saturday, Sept 6 at 2:30

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On the Marquee: Notes from the Sierra Madre Playhouse

A Set by Any Other Name



By Christian Lebano, Artistic Director



When a theater does several plays at the same time it is called a repertory. And when an actor participates in that kind of season he or she is called a "repertory actor". Well, this season SMP has a "Repertory Set!"

Audiences and critics have been delighted with the beautiful set that SMP currently has on its stage for 6 RMS RIV VU. Alice-Denise Walker in Life in LA said, "The set design by Emmy nominated John Vertrees adds an important character in the production. It has nice nuanced touches of an empty rent controlled apartment... It has the potential for future greatness." And Dink O'Neal in Arts in LA said, "Scenic designer Vertrees works magic, given that the entire set contains not one stick of furniture. Out-of-style wallpaper, marked with gritty outlines depicting where the previous occupant's framed items hung, reveal Vertrees's exquisite attention to detail."

Audiences are in for a surprise when they come to see our next production, Amy Herzog's Pulitzer-nominated 4000 Miles opening September 26 and see the same set transformed into an apartment that has been lived in for 50 years. It will have some very simple changes made – we'll add sliding doors, turn a closet into a bedroom, change the color and add lots of furniture and the audience will barely recognize it as that other empty apartment.

And this Spring we'll use it once again as Oscar Madison's bachelor pad in Neil Simon's The Odd Couple and with John's skill as a designer it will be transformed once again!

Sets are often our biggest expense and I thought it would be smart to try to amortize the cost of the beautifully realized set for 6 RMS over several productions. As a small theater with limited resources we have to find economies everywhere we can. But with a talent like John's that makes it much easier.

What a lucky day it was for SMP when John walked into the Playhouse to offer his services. As he says, "my wife Felicia and I have been patrons of the Sierra Madre Playhouse since we moved to town three years ago. Friends of ours would come from neighboring towns to see performances so we've felt lucky to have such high quality shows so close. As a designer I enjoyed the live entertainment experience so much that I volunteered to design for the Playhouse." And I quickly jumped at his offer and had him design Battledrum for us last season. And this season we've talked him into three sets albeit all based on the same basic apartment.

As John (who is currently working on a hit TV show that he declines to name) says: "There are certainly many design differences between Theatre, TV and Film. Live theater can be broader in scope and style and can be more abstract. I find that nothing can compete with live entertainment, as there is just something undeniable about a live performance that is unique. My college professor had a terrific phrase: "Sculptors carve in stone while theatre artists carve in ice."

Compare the two renderings and then come see the shows to see the sets as they were realized onstage.

Please let me hear from you about programming at the Playhouse. I can be reached at christian.lebano@sierramadreplayhouse.org

Come home to the Playhouse – where great entertainment journeys begin. For tickets call 626.355.4318 or go to www.sierramadreplayhouse.org



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COMING SOON
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Tastefully updated home located in the hills of South Pasadena. Home is surrounded in a wooded country setting, along with plenty of mature trees, and beautiful views. Features an open floor plan with 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms, and updated tile floors and fixtures. \$745,000

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Creative Arts Group presents



The 3rd Annual
Scarecrow Festival
September 13th – October 31st in Sierra Madre

Crows are Invading Sierra Madre!

Creative Arts Group is calling all creative minds to the 3rd Annual Scarecrow Festival of Sierra Madre to shoo away those pesky crows! Join in the fun by creating your own scarecrow, entering the contest, and voting for your favorite as you tour Sierra Madre.

Find out more: www.creativeartsgroup.org/scarecrow-festival/

Make a Scarecrow and Enter the Contest

Make your own scarecrow to put on display in front of your home or business. As long as you are a Sierra Madre resident or business – you can participate in the contest.

Register for the contest on our website or by filling out the application on the back of this page and turning it into Creative Arts Group by September 19th.

Take a FREE Scarecrow Building Workshop

Saturday, September 13th, 2014 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
The workshop is FREE, but space is limited – so register early!

Register for the workshop in person or on our website.

Vote for your Favorite Scarecrow!

Scarecrows will be on display throughout Sierra Madre from September 28th through the end of October. Maps will be available on our website, in participating stores, and at Creative Arts Group. Wander through town and find your favorites. Vote online via our website or Facebook for the People's Choice Award! An award ceremony will be held at Creative Arts Group on October 17th beginning at 7:00 pm.

**Sept 13
Free Scarecrow
Building Workshop
10 am – 4 pm**

**Sept 19
Enter the Contest**

**Sept 28 – Oct 31
Tour Scarecrows
of Sierra Madre**

**Vote for your
Favorite
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Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2014

SECTION B

AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY



“What’s Going On?”
News and Views from Joan Schmidt

MUTUAL AID AND FIRE SERVICE: A GREAT PARTNERSHIP

I live in the county area of Monrovia just east of Myrtle Avenue. When I helped form the

Monrovia-Arcadia- Duarte Town Council in 1993, the constant complaint/issue was “Why can’t the Monrovia City Fire Department-Station 105- just a few blocks north- serve us?”

I got blue in the face explaining that years ago in the 1950’s- the residents of Mayflower Village WERE GIVEN the opportunity to incorporate and receive City services but *refused* to because they didn’t want to pay city taxes! I had proof of this. Shortly after our election, an original homeowner Hugh Campbell gave me paperwork from the “Mayflower Village Association” warning residents NOT to vote to incorporate! But forget our boundaries! Doesn’t matter whether you are in the City of Arcadia, the City of Monrovia or Los Angeles County! We have AWESOME fire service- not only because of our great individual departments – but because of Mutual Aid. (There are several other cities that participate in this great program.)

Since last Saturday, there have been two REALLY DANGEROUS fires in the City of Arcadia. Not in the “regular” city limits, but just south and southeast of Monrovia County. Since we are two houses from Myrtle, I hear A LOT of sirens. If the fire is in my area, LA County Engine #169 (Peck/ Hemlock) responds first; after a few minutes #167 (Peck/ Bryant) Paramedics follow.

When there is a fire in the little “City of Monrovia” pocket south of my street, Monrovia Fire #105 responds going south. By the direction of the trucks, I can ascertain whether it’s a county or city fire.

On Saturday afternoon, the sirens began and there were really many responders. I learned it began at the Peck Road Park and then the wind spread it to “Pick-a-Part” where a few cars caught fire. 150 firefighters fought the blaze. Now this is where Mutual Aid comes in. Technically the site was the “City of Arcadia” but Monrovia #105 and LA County #169 (Captain Larry Burke and the “A” shift) were first responders because of proximity to the site. Of course Arcadia was there and in charge, but I also saw engines from San Gabriel, San

Marino, and LA County 244 (From Duarte). A LA County Fire Helicopter and the “Quint” from LA County #166 (Captain Alex Haua) also assisted in the effort. We are SO FORTUNATE that all of these great Departments work so well together.

About 5:20 AM Monday, I heard a loud “Boom” followed by sirens traveling south. I looked outside and saw smoke in the sky. What had happened was there was a mechanical problem with a street sweeper-then an explosion. This occurred in An Arcadia city yard on Goldring Rd. LA County #169(Captain Burke and the “C” Shift) and Monrovia #105 also were on scene as well as LA County #29 (Baldwin Park) assisting Arcadia.

I would like to thank Beth Stogner and Battalion Chief Barry Spriggs from the Arcadia Fire Department for their assistance. Every time I have called her, Beth has provided me with information on how the fires began and who assisted Arcadia Fire Department. Chief Briggs also issues press releases. I also would like to thank LA County Captains Burke, and Haua , Station #169 for their input.

City of Arcadia, City of Monrovia, LA County: Doesn’t matter where you live. Not only do all three areas have their “own” outstanding Department/ Service, but we also benefit from the great Mutual Aid.



SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT REVISED \$7.5 BILLION WATER BOND PASSED BY LEGISLATURE FOR NOVEMBER 2014 BALLOT

Legislation Transmitted to Governor Brown for Signature

Late last week, just hours before the California Secretary of State was to begin printing election voter guides, the Assembly and Senate each approved new legislation entitled the ‘Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014’ (AB1471 - Atkins/Rendon approved by votes of 77-1 in the Assembly and 37-0 in the Senate) which will lead to a \$7.54 billion water bond being placed on the statewide November 2014 ballot, replacing the \$11.14 bond that had previously been slated.

The compromise vote by the legislature is nothing less than historic in the midst of the State’s severe drought as it ends a multi-year stalemate on addressing the State’s imminent water needs, reflects a broad range of support from diverse stakeholder groups including water interests, business, labor and agriculture, and recognizes the fiscal limitations facing California.

Among the factors that came together to enable passage of the compromise legislation were the Governor raising his support from his recent \$6 billion borrowing proposal to the \$7.5 billion level, allowing for an increase in funding for water storage, local water supply and water quality assistance, and agreement that the Water Bond would be “neutral” relative to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. A key objective of the legislation is greater regional self-sufficiency statewide.

This long-awaited action reflects growing concern about the severe drought which is causing a myriad of water supply, environmental and economic impacts statewide, and a growing awareness that climatic conditions do not favor a short-term end to the drought. California’s severe drought is resulting in historically low levels of groundwater, reservoirs and snow pack, and these conditions are worsened by 2014 being the warmest year on record in the State and further impacted by 2013/2014 being amongst the driest years on record . Here in the San Gabriel Valley, thanks to long-term planning and improved water conservation, we have enough water in storage for 1-2 years, even if the drought continues. Even though that is the case, enhanced conservation is essential to ensure those supplies last.

In January of this year, the Governor called for greater voluntary water conservation and for a while, the State made progress as water use declined. The progress was short-lived, however and consumption levels began to increase in the Spring. Consequently, in late July the Governor called for mandatory water use reductions and enforcement. A variety of penalties for excessive water use went into effect on August

1. Outline of the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014
Total Funding
• \$7.54 Billion Components:
• Regional Water Reliability - \$810M
• Integrated regional water management - \$510M
• Stormwater capture - \$200M
• Water Conservation - \$100M
• Safe Drinking Water – \$520M
• Small Community Wastewater Program - \$260M
• Drinking Water Public Infrastructure - \$260M
• Water Recycling- \$725M
• Groundwater Sustainability – \$900M
• Prevent and reduce groundwater contaminants - \$800M
• Provide sustainable groundwater management planning and implementation - \$100M
• Watershed Protection, Watershed Ecosystem Restoration, State Settlements - \$1.495B
• Conservancies - \$327.5M
• Wildlife Conservation Board - \$200M
• Department of Fish and Wildlife - \$285M
• Department of Fish and Wildlife - \$87.5M
• State settlements and obligations including CVPIA - \$475M
• Rivers and creeks - \$120M
• Storage- \$2.7B
• Statewide Flood Management – \$395M
• Statewide flood management projects and activities - \$100M
• Delta levee subvention programs and delta flood protection projects - \$295M

SGVMWD DIRECTOR TOM LOVE TO DISCUSS WATER BOND AND WHY IT’S NEEDED

on Tuesday at the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club meeting.
33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. (The Lodge), Sierra Madre, Ca.
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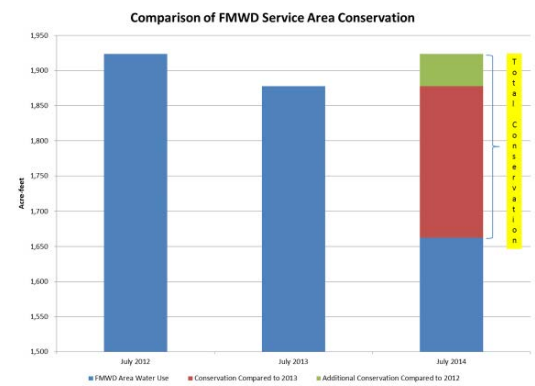
CUSTOMERS CONSERVING WATER IN RESPONSE TO STATE MANDATES

Foothill Municipal Water District would like to thank residents in its service area for their conservation efforts and urges to continue reducing demands on potable water. Demands for July have dropped about 13% in comparison to the same period in 2013 and 16% for the same period in 2012 as shown in the graphic below:

“With the decreasing likelihood of an El Niño bringing wet weather to the State this winter, it is important that customers continue to conserve,” said Board President Richard Atwater.

To that end, FMWD offers rebates on a variety of devices that can help customers conserve water. “Devices and other measures that conserve and use more water efficiently are an easy way to conserve,” said General Manager Nina Jazmadarian. “For example, about 70% of water use in the FMWD service area is for outdoor irrigation. Replacing thirsty lawns with drought tolerant, native plantings will help the consumer save a significant amount of water.”

For a list of all water-saving rebates offered, please visit www.socalwatersmart.com or www.fmwd.com/conservation.aspx. Residents and businesses must register and prequalify for rebates prior to starting any work.



Foothill Municipal Water District provides imported water to Crescenta Valley Water District, La Cañada Irrigation District, Mesa Crest Water Company, Valley Water Company, Lincoln Avenue Water Company, Las Flores Water Company and Rubio Cañon Land & Water Association. Kinneloa Irrigation District, another retail agency, takes no water from Foothill.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF RECREATION, ACCESS AND RESOURCE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE HELD AUG. 26

Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests to host event

Arcadia, Calif. -- The U.S. Forest Service will host a panel of local user groups, youth corps, cultural preservation experts, land management specialists and elected officials to explore opportunities for enhancing access, recreational use and protection of scenic, cultural and historic areas of interest on the Angeles National Forest and portions of the San Bernardino National Forest. The public discussion will be held Aug. 26, 2014, from 4:00-7:30 p.m. at the Baldwin Park Performing Arts Center- 4640 North Maine Avenue, Baldwin Park, CA 91706.

The historic and cultural significance of the San Gabriel Mountains and the surrounding forests are recognized by forest users, the public at large and elected representatives. Over the past decade, studies have been conducted to assess the way some of the last remaining open space should be protected and managed in the future. The Angeles National Forest is surrounded by a patchwork of intense urban development. It is the scenic mountain backdrop for the Los Angeles basin; includes over 70 percent of the open space for Los Angeles County and one third of the county’s drinking water; and is one of the largest and most diverse population centers in the world. The portion of the San Bernardino National Forest west of Lytle Creek is part of the contiguous San Gabriel Mountains range and shares the same unique natural character and significant recreational use by forest visitors.

The managers of the most urban forest in the country must

reassess how to remain committed to forest and watershed conservation while meeting the challenge of increasing recreational demands. The Forest Service will engage the public to explore opportunities to achieve our shared goals to enhance protection of wildland and watershed values. About the U.S. Forest Service: The mission of the Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation’s clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

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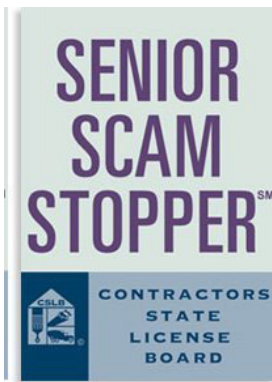
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Friday, September 12, 2014
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
South Pasadena Senior Center
1102 Oxley Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030

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One in five seniors has been a victim of fraud. Seniors are the most targeted group. New scams are developed constantly. Join us and learn how to protect yourself. Seniors, their families, and are welcome to attend this free seminar.

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Looking Up with Bob Eklund



SWIRLING ELECTRONS IN THE WHIRLPOOL GALAXY

The Whirlpool Galaxy Messier 51 (M51) is seen from a distance of approximately 30 million light-years. This galaxy appears almost face-on and displays a beautiful system of spiral arms.

A European team of astronomers was able to observe M51 with the International LOFAR Telescope in the frequency range 115-175 MHz, just above the normal commercial FM radio frequency band of 88-108 MHz. The team obtained the most sensitive image of any galaxy at frequencies below 1 GHz so far.

With LOFAR's high sensitivity, the disk of M51 in the radio regime could be traced much further out than before. The astronomers detected cosmic electrons and magnetic fields 40,000 light-years away from the center of M51. With LOFAR's high angular resolution, the spiral arms are clearly visible. Magnetic fields and cosmic rays are densest in spiral arms. Compared to higher radio frequencies, spiral arms appear broader at low frequencies due to the diffusion of cosmic electrons away from the spiral arms where they have been formed.

The view of galaxies in the radio regime is different to their optical appearance. Whereas optical images show predominantly the visible light from stars, the radio waves unravel two constituents of galaxies that are invisible to optical telescopes: electrons and magnetic fields. Their role for the stability and evolution of galaxies is increasingly under discussion. The electrons are "cosmic ray" particles produced in the shock fronts of giant supernova explosions. Magnetic fields are generated by dynamo processes driven by gas motions. When the electrons spiral around the magnetic field lines, radio waves are emitted, a process called synchrotron emission. Its intensity increases with the number and energy of the electrons and with magnetic field strength.

For many decades, radio astronomy has been unable to explore low frequencies below 300 MHz because the ionosphere acts as a barrier of low-frequency radio waves (which are completely blocked below about 10 MHz). Sophisticated methods of data processing and superfast computers are needed to recover the emission. Due to these technical challenges, spiral galaxies have hardly been studied before at these very low radio frequencies. The only observations were of poor resolution and no details could be made out.

The target of investigation in David Mulcahy's PhD project was the beautiful spiral galaxy Messier 51, which is visible with small telescopes



in the constellation Canes Venatici (not far from the Big Dipper).

"Low-frequency radio waves are important as they carry information about electrons of relatively low energies that are able to propagate further away from their places of origin in the star-forming spiral arms and are able to illuminate the magnetic fields in the outer parts of galaxies," says Mulcahy. "We need to know whether magnetic fields are expelled from galaxies and what their

strength is out there."

The Low Frequency Array (LOFAR), designed and constructed by ASTRON in the Netherlands, is a brand new radio telescope giving access to very low radio frequencies.

LOFAR explores the relatively unexplored frequency range below 240 MHz and consists of a multitude of small and simple antennas without moving parts. LOFAR consists of 38 stations in the Netherlands, 6 stations in Germany and

one station each in the UK, France and Sweden. Signals from all of LOFAR's stations are combined online in a powerful computing cluster located at the University of Groningen (Netherlands).

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



FORAGING FOR GINKGO

By Christopher Nyerges

(Ginkgo biloba)
How to use the nuts and leaves of this "living fossil"

Botanists believed that the Ginkgo biloba tree was extinct, but then it was found in a Chinese Buddhist monastery in the 1700s, where

specimens were being cultivated.

Ginkgo is a smooth-barked tree, often growing upright in a very vertical fashion when young, and then producing a much larger angular crown as it matures. Each leaf is fan-shaped, and has the appearance of a fern. The leaves turn yellow in the fall. The fruits, formed only on the female trees, are covered in a light brown fleshy coating that is very odoriferous. The nut has a thin shell that is easily cracked. Both nuts and leaves are considered edible, if properly prepared.

Once it was rediscovered, ginkgo has been cultivated and spread all over the world as an ornamental and street tree. It is popular because of its unique appearance, and its relative resistance to insects and disease. To Buddhists, the tree is regarded as sacred.

THE NUTS

In Japan, and other parts of Asia, processed nuts are added to rice and stir fry dishes. Ginkgo nuts are high in protein and low in fat. The medicinal properties of the nuts, which you get by eating them, are said to include the release of stress and hypertension (the result of dilating blood vessels and increasing oxygen into the blood stream). The nuts are also reportedly good for pain and soreness, as well as aid to digestion.

Yes, I harvest the ripe ginkgo nuts, and yes, I have to hold my nose! The fleshy tissue around the seed really stinks! Some people have learned to not-mind the strong odor, generally reminiscent of fresh feces. Yes, you can get used to just about anything, and in time, you can learn to not be bothered by the "aroma" of the flesh around the ginkgo nuts.

My suggestion is that you just get over it. It might help if you chew on some aromatic gum, like licorice gum, while collecting.

Once collected, you can let the nuts and their soft outer shell dry, which makes it significantly easier to clean. Or you can just clean them right away, as I tend to do. I always wash them outside. You can put all the fresh ginkgo nuts in a pan of warm water, and roll them around between your hands to clean off all the outer coverings, which you should then toss into your compost pile.

The cleaned nuts are then best dried, such as in the

oven at pilot-light temperature. I have dried them with their shells, and without their shells. I don't know if one way is right or wrong, and I believe it is just a matter of preference. However, ginkgo nuts dried in the shell seem to keep a lot longer than the shelled and dried ones. If you plan to eat them right away, then it probably doesn't matter how you prepare them.

Once roasted, you can just eat the ginkgo nuts as-is. (Yes, there are two types of people: Those who like ginkgo nuts, and those who do not....)

I have never eaten these nuts raw because of the foul odor. However, there have been some reports that the nuts can make you ill if you eat them raw (no doubt!). The nuts must be boiled or roasted for about 25 minutes. You'll know they are done when you can easily break the thin shell with a nutcracker. They taste is akin to a bean.

To extend shelf life, they can be simply dried, though freezing might be even better.

Caution: there have been reports of sickness by some people who have eaten about a dozen cooked nuts at one time. So my suggestion is to try a few and monitor the results. Your body will tell you whether or not you should eat more.

THE LEAF

When you see pills of Ginkgo biloba in health food stores, such pills are made from the ground or powdered leaf.

Leaf extract has been subject to many clinical tests, and it apparently increases circulation for the limbs and for the brain. This is why it seems to be helpful for improving memory and assisting with retaining memories. Suggestions that ginkgo can reverse dementia don't seem to hold up to clinical tests. Nor do the claims that ginkgo can cure cancer seem to be valid, so far.

A leaf extract has also been found to improve the immune system, and to protect the heart by clearing plaque from the arteries. In fact, ginkgo biloba extracts are used for many ailments such as headaches, asthma, kidney disorders, and more.

I have found that when I am experiencing a "slow day," ginkgo pills, or homemade tea from the leaves, seem to offer a subtle yet noticeable "pick-me-up" without the eventual slowdown that follows drinking coffee.

There has been some debate about the safety of gathering your own ginkgo leaves for making your own tea. From what I have concluded, it seems safe enough to brew an occasional cup of tea from the leaves. Also, apparently the best time to collect the leaves for tea is when the leaves have turned yellow and are falling from the tree. This also apparently bypasses any toxic properties (e.g. ginkgolic acid) that may be in the leaf. Most negative reactions from using ginkgo are not from the leaf, but from eating the nuts raw.

FORAGER NOTES

Don't bring raw nuts with the husks into your house



without warning the family. I remember I brought some home once when I was living with my parents. They were all in a brown paper bag in the kitchen, since I intended to clean them right after dinner. My mother insisted that everyone check the bottom of their shoes since she was certain someone stepped in dog poop. Finally, I remembered the bag and took it outside. It seemed like years before I heard the end of that one.

[Nyerges is the author of "Foraging California," "Guide

to Wild Foods," "How to Survive Anywhere," and other books. He leads wild food and natural history walks on a regular basis. Contact him at [HYPERLINK "http://www.schoolofself-reliance.com/"](http://www.schoolofself-reliance.com/) www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com, or Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041]

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FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett



How to Protect Your Real Estate Assets

If you own real estate, chances are you have purchased insurance to protect the property against damage or loss. But have you taken the necessary steps to protect your assets against lawsuits or probate?

If you own rental properties, there is likely a nagging fear in the back of your mind about being sued by one of your tenants. And if there isn't, there should be. It's a major risk.

And while it may be heartbreaking to think about, there is always a chance your death could trigger a family feud over your home, vacation home, or other real estate investments.

Two common estate planning tools for real estate asset protection include limited liability companies (LLCs) and trusts:

The LLC. If you have income-producing property, then an LLC probably makes sense for you, since it shields your personal assets from lawsuits or claims that result from your ownership of the real estate. LLCs may also offer owners privacy since the property can be listed in a company name, not in your name directly. However, you must be sure you maintain the LLC properly so the planned for protections remain intact. It's not too difficult to accomplish that though, especially with the help of counsel.

The Trust. If you own property that you do not rent out on a regular basis, then a trust may be a better choice for you. There are several options: a Qualified Personal Residence Trust (QPRT) is an irrevocable trust (meaning it cannot be changed without the

consent of the beneficiaries) that allows an owner to use the property for a fixed term, and then pass the property on to heirs. This is a commonly used structure to reduce the size of your estate for estate tax purposes.

A **revocable trust** (which can be changed without consent of the beneficiaries) is more flexible and, if you choose a dynasty trust, can last for multiple generations. The major benefit of the revocable trust, besides control of what happens to the assets after the death of the grantors, is that it keeps your assets out of the hands of the Court after your death, and totally within the control of your family.

You can also use a combination of LLCs and trusts to protect real estate assets if you have a combination of primary residence and rental properties. We can help you determine the best course of action for your individual circumstances.

Feel free to call my office and schedule a time for us to sit down and talk about your situation, where we can identify the best strategies for you and your family to ensure you leave a legacy of love and financial security, no matter what. Call 626-355-4000 today or visit www.GarlettLaw.com for more information.

Marc, a local attorney, father, and CASA volunteer (Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children) is on a mission to help parents protect what they love most. His office is located at 49 S. Baldwin Ave., Ste. G, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.



Tips of the Trade: Real Estate Revealed

by Luther Tsinoglou

ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

In spite of the real estate roller coaster of the last few years, homeownership remains the bedrock of financial and familial security. Having a long-term investment that provides the satisfaction and pride of ownership beats just about anything else you can do with your savings.

When the market exploded several years ago, the expectations of many consumers grew too high, too fast. Homes became more commodities than investments, and now markets and attitudes have been forced to realign.

Conditions today make it an opportune time to secure your future. Home prices and interest rates are still low, and tax advantages are abundant. You just have to get past all the negativity in the media. All the bad news has

drained consumer confidence, and frankly, you cannot underestimate the effect of intangibles like confidence and expectation on the real estate industry.

Real estate transactions are unlike any other financial transaction. The demand and desire for homeownership doesn't expire like other flashy investment instruments. The inherent value of a stock can be calculated by a formula of company profits, earnings ratios, performance history, fund managers, and so on.

However, a home's value is ultimately determined by what a buyer is willing to pay for it, and the security and well-being that owning your own home provides. Honestly, there's hardly been a better time to make your move.



Social Media Tips, Tricks & Ideas



by: MJ Finstrom

WHAT IS YOUR WHY?

If you ask me to "Like" your Facebook page, follow your tweets or join your email list, I want to know why. What's in it for me? Do I become a member of an exclusive club? Will I get something I can't get anywhere else? Is your content something that helps me, educates me, inspires me or puts a smile on my face?

The main reason people subscribe to social media and email content from a business is to receive discounts, promotions and exclusive content.

If you haven't thought about your "why" lately, it might be time to define it further. Make a list of 10 reasons people should subscribe to your on-line content. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Like us on Facebook for exclusive discounts – coupons
- Follow us on Twitter for updates on new product releases
- Join the conversation on Twitter. Provide a hashtag and start a conversation about a topic related to your industry.
- Like us on Facebook for trending news about _____
- Join our email list for insider rewards
- Subscribe to our Birthday Club
- Subscribe to our email list for tips and tricks
- Subscribe to our email list for a schedule of _____
- "Like" us on Facebook for a sneak peek behind the scenes
- "Like" us on Facebook to receive _____

What is your Why?

About MJ: MJ and her brother David own HUTdogs, a creative services business that specializes in Internet Marketing strategies and Social Media. They offer social media management services and help their clients build a strong on-line presence. "Like" them on Facebook for trending news in social media, internet marketing and other helpful tips, www.facebook.com/hutdogs.

Sign up for their upcoming classes, webinars and presentations at: www.hutdogs.com/workshops/schedule



806 Skyland, Sierra Madre \$725,000

A Must See!



The envy of Architectural Digest, welcome home to your private oasis, magnificent city/mountain views, nestled in the peaceful, upper canyon of Marlborough Terrace. This 2-story artistic beauty has been completely remodeled in 2008. It has 1,604 sq.ft. of living area, but appears much larger due to high beam ceilings. It has 2 bdrm plus a spacious loft which can be used as a 3rd bdrm since it has a large closet.

The full bath downstairs has custom tile, river-stone flooring in the shower and double vanity sink. The living room has large windows from floor to ceiling to marvel over the views, hardwood custom flooring, and brick, wood burning, fireplace. The open-concept kitchen has state of the art appliances, gorgeous maple cabinets, and terra cotta tile flooring.

The backyard has a pool and a spa overlooking the city lights and valley. The landscaping is impressive and perfect for entertaining. This home has too many amenities to list. Please come see for yourself.



Janette Ledea

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How to Avoid Fraudulent Jobs

Job hunting is tough enough, but there are people and organizations that want to take advantage of you during your career efforts. Your personal information, intellectual property, money, and more can be at risk during all aspects of your job hunt.

The objectives of this presentation are to make you aware of common scams, show you how to identify questionable job practices, and tell you what to do if you are the victim of a fraudulent job.

Presenter Tom Lenzo has seen many fraudulent jobs during a career working in training, organizational development, technology, and security. He is an identity

theft investigator (volunteer) with the Pasadena Police Department, and is a member of the FBI's InfraGard program, specializing in cybercrime. Tom is also a Women at Work volunteer.

When: Wednesday Sept. 17, 2014
Doors open at 5:15
Presentation 5:30 - 6:30
Networking 6:30 - 7:00
Where: Women At Work
2555 E. Colorado #204, Pasadena

Cost: Women at Work clients – a contribution, please. Employed Guests: \$5.00

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Mountain Views News Mission Statement

The traditions of community newspapers 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

LEFT TURN AND MORE

HOWARD Hays As I See It



"There is no 'us and them'. There is only 'us.'"

President Bill Clinton in his First Inaugural Address (January, 1993)

I don't "tweet". I still haven't fully accepted the tic-tac-toe symbol as the "pound sign" on a telephone, let alone a "hashtag".

There are a couple Twitter users who got something going last week, though, that I found interesting. They asked followers to submit examples of how individuals with a certain characteristic in a certain circumstance had been depicted in the media, published or broadcast. I'll give five examples from each of two groups, and maybe you can guess from these actual media depictions the characteristic and circumstance the five in each of the two groups have in common:

"... brilliant, but social misfit"
"... 'soft-spoken, polite, a gentleman', ex-principal says"
"... fascinated with guns but was a devoted Mormon, friends say"
"... described as 'fine person'"
"... brilliant, athletic - but his demons were the death of parents"

Here's the second group:
"... had history of narcotics abuse, tangles with the law"
"... had been shot before ... possibly drug-related"
"... had many run-ins with law"
"... was gang member"
"Trayvon Martin was suspended three times from school"

That last one probably gave it away. The first five are media descriptions of murder suspects, all white. The second five are murder victims, all black.

I don't know how many readers of this column regard themselves as "brilliant", "athletic", "polite", etc. - but it's the crowd we like to think we hang with - it's "us". Those with a "history of drug abuse", "many run-ins with law", or a "gang member" - it's nothing personal, but it's definitely "them". The above Twitter project followed the Ferguson (Missouri) Police Dept.'s releasing video of what they claim was a "strong-arm robbery" by 18-year-old Michael Brown of a local convenience store shortly before he was killed by one of their officers. (When is the last time you heard the expression "strong-arm robbery"?)

The U.S. Dept. of Justice asked the Ferguson Police not to release the video, warning it would only inflame the nightly street protests they were trying to calm down. The Ferguson Police went ahead and released it anyway, and guess what - the Feds were right; there went the relative calm of the night before.

The video release blindsided Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon (D), as well. Referring to Brown's family, the governor said on "Meet The Press", "When you see your son gunned down in the street and then you see a police chief begin an attempt to attack his character, that's just not the way to operate. . ."

Toxicology results are pending, but it appears Brown might have smoked pot. Not only that, he was reportedly an aspiring rapper. This was enough for David Horowitz to label him "a criminal and a thug"; one of "them".

The release of the video and selective leaking of information from off-the-record, anonymous sources, contradicting on-the-record statements from publicly identified eyewitnesses, is to establish before any federal or grand jury investigation that Michael Brown was one of "them". The protests became re-engaged with the re-emergence of a familiar strategy - establishing an "us vs. them" narrative to preclude any white cop / black victim accountability.

Sometimes this stereotyping is calculated; other times it seems to be media habit, as with the tweet sent out by the AP announcing the verdict earlier this month in the killing of a black teenager in Dearborn Heights, MI last November.

Renisha McBride was a 19-year-old who went out and got wasted, booze and pot, at a friend's place. Heading home in the wee hours, she smashed up her car. Hurt and needing help, she banged on the door of a house within walking distance. She was killed when the homeowner fired a shotgun at her face through the locked screen door. When the killer was found guilty of second-degree murder and manslaughter, the AP tweeted, "Suburban Detroit homeowner convicted of second-degree murder for killing woman who showed up drunk on porch". This didn't go over well, so the AP sent out a revised tweet, "Jury convicts Michigan man in killing of unarmed woman on his porch".

By then, however, a group called Black Twitter had come on the scene, established the hashtag #APHeadlines and invited followers to submit suppositions as to how the AP might have tweeted coverage of other events:

"Lincoln signs Emancipation Proclamation. Several hundred thousand blacks out of work"

"Unarmed Black Man Trips Into A Chokehold: NYPD Blamed For His Death"
"Mitt Romney posts impressive second-place finish behind possible Kenyan socialist"

"Black youth charged with stealing police bullets: Found hidden in torso"

"BREAKING: Stray bullet strikes uppity negro speechifying on balcony"

"Africans infect eminent white doctors with lethal virus"

"The poor of New Orleans leave their cramped apartments to wait out hurricane in spacious Superdome"

"Homeless blasphemer from low-income Nazarene family, low on stamina, fails to survive crucifixion"

(Thanks to Lee Bailey's Electronic Urban Report website for the above)

The "us vs. them" narrative is played out in the media through their focus on the looters and Molotov cocktail-throwers in Ferguson, and not the masses of protesters trying to stop them and protect threatened businesses. The Ferguson Police established the narrative early by coming on not to protect citizens exercising their rights, but confronting them as an occupying force with heavy mobile armor, military gear and assault weapons.

For a while I regarded these reports as about "them" in Missouri, so distant from "us" here in Southern California. Then I learned that last month the Compton School Board authorized its school police to arm themselves with AR-15 assault rifles.

Not being very familiar with the Twitter vernacular, for that Compton story I believe users would employ the expression, "Well, That's Flummoxing!", or rather its abbreviation, "WTF!?"

RICH Johnson WHAT'S YOUR JOURNEY?



I promise the Court Jester will return shortly. Seeing the funny side of life is seriously important. I shall return. "Get it? Got it! Good!" (Can anyone tell me where that quote

came from?)

How old are you? In your twenties? Thirties? Fifties? Seventies? How is your life progressing? Are you filling your life with what you always wanted to do? If the answer is no, you are like most of us. How did you end up doing what you are doing? Parents talk you out of that career as a rock drummer and send you to accounting college? It happens all the time. Find your true love and settle down? You're lucky, but it doesn't mean you have to derail your other dreams and goals.

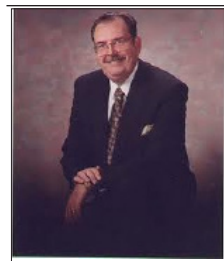
If you have unfulfilled dreams, it just may be time to reassess and modify your game plan. No, I'm not suggesting abandoning the family. I'm suggesting you come up with a new game plan that involves the family in helping fulfill your goals (and theirs). And realize you are not alone. This is nothing new. Let's talk about people you may have heard of who didn't achieve their goals until later in life.

Abraham Lincoln ran for state legislature and lost and then won. In between he had a business fail. He got engaged and his sweetheart died. He ran for Congress and lost. Then he won and then he lost again. Then he ran for the Senate and lost. He ran again and lost again. And then a funny thing happened. He was elected President of the United States at age 51. Huh?

Gifted singer Andrea Bocelli was a defense attorney until the age of 34, graduating from the University of Pisa. He left his job to pursue singing. He has, to date, recorded 14 studio albums, 3 greatest hits albums and 9 complete operas. Not bad for a fella with no sight.



OUT TO PASTOR A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder IT WAS A SHOOFLY PIE CELEBRATION WEEKEND



People ask me questions all the time. Some of those questions I can answer, some I cannot answer and some I will not answer. I wish people would ask me questions I could answer and look good

about it. However, it never happens.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asks me questions all the time. After 43 years, I have finally figured out her questions. Most usually require one word answers. For somebody like me who spends most of his time preaching and writing, boiling an answer down to one word is something that is quite difficult.

The one great thing about my wife is, when she asks me a question, she does not really want an answer, because she already has the answer. I do not know how wives have developed this kind of intellectual mystique. I have just never had the opportunity to ask her. This probably would be the main question I would ask. Sometimes, living in the dark is okay.

Some people ask questions to get information. Some people ask questions to show off how smart they think they are, which, merely proves how dumb they actually are. Do not let them know that I said this, or they may have some questions for me. Then some people ask questions in order to trick you.

Questions are important. Sometimes my friends (both of them), will ask me a question. The primary question is simply, What is a shoofly pie? This is the kind of question I like and furthermore, I like to answer it.

The trouble with a question like this is, where do you begin? With something as marvelous and wonderful as a shoofly pie, where do you start to explain all of its delicacies?

To begin with, a shoofly pie is a slice of heaven. I am

quite sure that in heaven at supper time there will be shoofly pies aplenty. I know quite a few Mennonite and Amish women who, I am quite sure, are in heaven, and if they are, they will insist on making shoofly pie. I do not know if it is in their genes, but I do know it is in their aprons.

If anybody has ever had the wonderful opportunity of eating a shoofly pie, they will know exactly what I am talking about. It is hard to explain the experience without your mouth watering so much you need a towel.

To start with, the bottom of a shoofly pie is sheer liquid pleasure. Depending on the woman preparing the pie will depend on how thick that bottom layer is. Once that is laid down, the next layer is a delightful mix of flour and sugar and other secret ingredients. That layer seems to float on top of that liquid pleasure.

On the top is a crust of munchable delight that has absolutely no equal. Then, to set it off, there is a circular crust that holds all of this together in one magnificent pie.

I am not a baker so I do not know how they put all of this together and then put it in the oven and then bring out this awesome, classical dessert known as shoofly pie. Some things are so wonderful that they cannot be fully explained.

Personally, I would rather not spend much time trying to answer the question, What is a shoofly pie? I would preferably utilize that time delving into eating a shoofly pie. That is my greatest delight.

Recently I indulged this marvelous delight in the center of shoofly pie country. Everybody knows that to be Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

A conference was going to be there that I wanted to go to but I had many things that prohibited me from going there. All I could think about was the wonderful shoofly

pies I could indulge in if I went to that conference. So, I worked hard to eliminate everything that would keep me from going there. Some things are, indeed, worth fighting for.

About a month before the conference was to start, I had dealt with the final obstruction and was able to make plans to go. All I could think about was, "Shoofly pie, here I come."

As soon as my flight landed, I hurried off to the nearest restaurant and indulged in my first slice of shoofly pie for the weekend. I am happy to say it was not my last piece.

At the conference, they had breakfast, lunch and dinner and for dessert, even at breakfast, was shoofly pie. I cannot tell you how many pieces of shoofly pie I ate, for the simple reason I cannot count that high without taking off my shoes. A slice of shoofly pie highlighted every meal. I am happy to say that they had more shoofly pie at this conference than I could consume although I did my very best, I assure you.

I know that life sometimes has its hard paths and things can become very difficult. That is why we need to have something to really look forward to.

The writer to the Hebrews understood this when he wrote, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

Celebrating the delicacies of life enable us to survive the adversities of life.

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