

# Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Duarte

Monrovia

Pasadena

Altadena

South Pasadena

San Marino

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2020

VOLUME 14 NO. 24

## THE WEBB-MARTIN GROUP



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**AUCTION JUNE 13TH**

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Built in 1885 as a carriage house, this charming two-story home was converted to a single-family residence and moved to its present location in 1936. While sorely in need of a complete restoration, the charm and character of this lovely home remains intact.

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 Multiple Offers!



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381 Mariposa Ave. #B  
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 Over Asking  
 with Multiple Offers!



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690 Oak Crest Dr.  
 Sierra Madre 91024

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**SOLD**

451 Camillo Rd.  
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## SIERRA MADRE: A CITY WITH A WELL MANAGED BUDGET

By Kevin McGuire

In the face of the fiscal impact COVID-19 has had on cities across the country, Sierra Madre managed to approve a 2020-2021 balanced budget while sporting a \$1.2 million General Fund surplus.

Staff used a zero-based process to establish that each line item in the budget was necessary. Department heads were asked to review their budgets for reductions, requiring a line-by-line review and approval of all expenditures by the City Manager, according to the staff report.

The budget proposal establishes a \$200,000 General Fund contingency. That's an increase of 50% put aside for unforeseen circumstances and unbudgeted items, as those felt over the last three months of stay-at-home orders.

The Budget Public Hearing took place on Tuesday June 9, but produced no public comments for or against the contents of the proposal, most likely due to the impact of the pandemic. Because of COVID-19, the city repurposed approximately \$400,000 of General Fund monies to pandemic relief. Additional steps were taken to save funds through reduction of hours and services that the city felt were no longer needed. Actions included hiring freezes, elimination of non-essential overtime expenses and the postponement of all non-essential capital projects.

Moving forward to the next fiscal year, the city proposes a suspension of the compensation program, which means no step or cost-of-living increases for City employees. They may also offer early retirement packages. This is not set in stone and may change as we recover and open up more services.

Sales revenues in the city are still expected to continue to slide below expectations in 2021, due to the coronavirus. Projections show Sierra Madre having a loss of close to 40% in sales tax, this reduction will be offset by the 0.75% sales tax increase (Measure S) which was approved by voters in 2019. In addition, the city budgeted for a delinquency in property tax, losses in rent, business licenses, overnight parking, and events revenue.

In some good news, the 2020-21 budget includes funding for training and equipment for public safety, such as \$200,000 for a new ambulance.

An option has been left open to make increases or decreases to expenditures as needed. For example, if the projections change for the better, prepayments from the General Fund to CalPERS could take place and pay freeze for city employees may be lifted.

Some of the reductions that have been made because of COVID-19 will become permanent, in order to repurpose funds to assist during the pandemic, according to the 3-Year

Pandemic Response Plan presented by City Manager Gabriel Engeland. These reductions include: cutbacks of LAPD patrol, elimination of community service grants, and program assistance to the YMCA. The city will save approximately \$85,000, due to these cuts. Some repurposing considered one-time only includes utilizing \$200,000 from the COPS fund balance and \$190,000 from IT Capital Projects.

Overall, compared to some neighboring cities, Sierra Madre looks strong as it enters into its third consecutive year of an all-funds surplus. The breakdown of the 20/21 Budget shows a General Fund revenue of \$12,010,400 and expenditures at \$10,336,720, leaving an 8% surplus of expenditures. The total all-funds budget is \$23.2 million with \$2.9 million in total surplus.

In the Police Department, the city added one full-time position, while decreasing part-time hours. The Fire Department increased salaries and added funds for a chief position and also added a part-time training captain position. Public works budgeted \$10,000 for Lizzie's Trail House Inn and will continue aggressive street repairs throughout the city. The sewer system is budgeted for repairs and a new truck, and the Water fund anticipates investing \$2.5 million in infrastructure, including a \$1 million interest free loan from the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District. The library also eliminated one full-time position, as services were not needed due to COVID-19.

Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle Arizmendi stated that she has not heard favorable budget news from City Council colleagues from neighboring towns and commends City Staff. "Considering some of the investments we've had to make for COVID, and changes we've had to make with our planning, it's remarkable what we've been able to do," she said.

"There is a lot of good news here given the true challenges the pandemic has laid out," said Councilmember Gene Goss. "This is an awfully good-looking budget considering."

Mayor John Capoccia praised the City Manager and staff for reacting quickly to the pandemic and exploring where the city could save money and cut costs. "The exciting thing about the budget is the surplus we have, which is considerably over our target of 25% of General Fund balance. This is good news for Sierra Madre," the Mayor said, referring to the fund balance in the General Fund which is projected to reach 72% at fiscal year end.

Council unanimously adopted four resolutions in relation to the budget. The 84-page Staff Report on the budget, including a complete breakdown of spending, is available to the public on the Sierra Madre website at [cityofsierramadre.com](http://cityofsierramadre.com).

## BARRY SCHWAM PASSES AT AGE 70

Without question, Barry Schwam was one of the most colorful characters in Sierra Madre. He was our Grinch, he was our Ichobad Crane, he was our official 'theremin' player and so much more. He was an important part of the Sierra Madre Playhouse, The Sierra Madre Wistaria Festival, and Sierra Madre's very own Grinch. And, he was an important part of JJs Jukebox which performed in his honor on Sunday.

There really aren't enough words to describe this multi talented, actor, musician, artist and all around great guy and he will be sorely missed.

Barry fought a valiant fight against cancer and died on June 7th peacefully in his Sierra Madre home, according his wife Lydia. There will be a public memorial sometime in the future for this amazingly talented man. Lydia completed her post with words that he and his friends could truly understand, "The Mother Ship has finally beamed you up"



## SAY MY NAME VIGIL IN SIERRA MADRE



On Tuesday, the Sierra Madre Community held a solemn vigil in an effort to remember the untimely murder of George Floyd and the incidents that led to his death and the efforts to change those circumstances by thousands of protestors across the nation. This event was organized on the day of Floyd's burial by Sierra Madre resident Christy Teichman (top right) who "Wanted to bring our community together and start creating that change." The event began with a rendition of, "It Is Well" spiritual by Heidi Salazar. Speakers included Rev. Briant Cuffy, Pastor of Bethany Christian Church Sierra Madre (pictured lower right), Kellen Law (top right), Justin Sapp, Florence Annang, and Mountain Views News editor, Susan Henderson (lower left). To see a video of the complete event, go to: [www.mtnviewsnews.com](http://www.mtnviewsnews.com)

## SIERRA MADRE LOSES TWO RESIDENTS TO COMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19

As of Friday, Sierra Madre experienced an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases to 15 and the total number of deaths to 2. Prior to this week, the city had no COVID-19 casualties reported.

The two cases were both at the Kensington Senior Living Center and both suffered from illnesses. Both were in the hospital at the time of death.

The Kensington's residence have been under quarantine for some time and had implemented precautions to protect residents in early March. Sources indicate that at one time there were six employees that tested positive for the virus.

Currently there are no other reported cases among staff or residents

## COUNTY AND STATE-RUN COVID-19 TESTING SITES ARE ALL OPEN

LA County and State run testing sites are all open. Residents can make an appointment by visiting the County COVID-19 testing website. Same day appointments are available at State operated Optum-Serve sites.

"We are committed to ensuring that testing is widely available to people who need them," said Dr. Christina Ghaly, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. "Through our col-laborative work with community clinics and other healthcare providers we are working to meet the needs of the community and provide seamless care for patients."

For the latest information on COVID-19 testing sites or to make an appointment, please vis-it [covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/](http://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/).

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**Pets in need**

Some pet parents cannot afford the cost of vet care right now. You can help those pets! Visit us:

[www.FreeAnimalDoctor.org](http://www.FreeAnimalDoctor.org)

Sierra Madre based non-profit

Free Animal Doctor

# SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA



## CONGRATULATIONS

Melia E. Jost, 18 years old, graduated from California School of the Arts, San Gabriel Valley. (Duarte)

Melia will attend Boston Conservatory at Berklee, BFA program in Musical Theatre.

## PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER!

Support the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association by purchasing flowers, edibles, and succulents.

Specialty plants including longevity spinach! Some fertilizer and tomato cages are available.

9 am to 11 am every Saturday until plants run out!

Check the website or updates  
YMCA Sierra Madre Recreation Center Garden

611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre (Enter on the east side at the northeast corner) Suggested donations start at \$5.00

Proceeds benefit SMRFA and the YMCA

Masks and social distancing required  
We hope you'll come support our non-profits and go home with some terrific new plants!

Sierra Madre Rose Float Association  
587 E Sierra Madre Bl  
Sierra Madre CA 91024  
(626) 355-7005



## MEGHAN MALOOLY: FOUNDER OF SIERRA MADRE HELPING HAND

I created The Sierra Madre Helping Hand to do just that, to help. The world took a big hit and our community was not immune. While I was searching for people to help, people found me. They were asking for help, not for themselves, but for neighbors and loved ones who needed assistance, but wouldn't ask for it. The Sierra Madre Helping Hand is a community relief fund aimed to help people who live, grew up, or work in Sierra Madre. I have loved this town from the bottom of my heart my whole life and can't imagine what it would've been like growing up anywhere but here. Growing up in Sierra Madre I got to see a snowman, ride in a horse drawn carriage, make a scare crow, get soaked by a fire hose, wake up to a horn at noon every day, watch movies in the park, smash confetti eggs on my sisters head and sit on the roof of my dad's car watching fireworks from the top of Auburn. I cherish those memories. So when the time came that the town, that did so much for me, needed help, I jumped at the chance. I've always loved community service and helping others so it was a very familiar and natural role for me to take on. I graduated from UC Riverside with a BA in Public Policy with an emphasis on the study of the social, cultural and family aspects life. After working in customer service for 3 years in Riverside I moved home and opened my business and the Helping Hand.

The Sierra Madre Helping Hand was created from compassion and generosity. A woman, approached me and said she was blessed to be in good financial standing but she feared some of our community members were having a hard time. Just like that Helping Hand was born. It started with me just purchasing a couple bags of groceries and dropping them to those in need, but now it's turned into something so much greater. I am so proud and delighted to say that through the use of social media we were able to donate over \$4,000 to families and their crucial bills. I've always been a problem solver, no matter what the issue was I found a solution, even if that meant creating my own solution. The Helping Hand is a one stop shop for anything our families might need. We have food (of course) but we also supply games, toys, books and clothes, when requested. The Sierra Madre Library was absolutely amazing and donated four huge bags of books for kids all ages. We were able to put together a ton of kids care packages. As Helping Hand grew and started supporting more families I realized that we needed to be able to guarantee that these families would get the food they needed for their families. So I contacted The Fit Bar Superfood Café in town to inquire about their produce bundles and decided that we will now be purchasing all our produce needs through them! I am happy to be working with such a great company! The families were ecstatic when they saw all the fresh veggies and fruit we were able to give them. As Helping Hand continues to grow I'm hopeful we'll be able to give these families exactly what they need. We currently provide



food for 6 families weekly and 2 bi-weekly. Food and other items are constantly dropped at my house throughout the week and I find them a great home with one of my families. Every week I personally put together the bags for the families personalizing them for their taste. I'm currently trying to become a non-profit organization so that I can so that I can get donations from stores and restaurants and not have to put the burden on the town any longer. I've spoken to a couple stores that wanted to help (Target and Trader Joes) but without being a non-profit I am unable to receive their donations. After speaking to a lawyer I discovered I can join forces with an already established non-profit who status would extend to me. I will continue to look into that option and what entails. My goal for Helping Hand has always to help as many people as I can for as long as I can. I am beyond proud to be helping our community members. In my eyes, once a Sierra Madran always a Sierra Madran. You can't get rid of us!

## NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MARGUERITE DASTOOR CASE NO. 20STPB04030

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of MARGUERITE DASTOOR.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by SHIRAZ FAGAN AND KHORSHEH DASTOOR in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that SHIRAZ FAGAN AND KHORSHEH DASTOOR be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 10/19/20 at 8:30AM in Dept. 99 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner  
KIRK O. BROBERG  
SBN 169124

CALLISTER, BROBERG & BECKER, A  
LAW CORPORATION  
700 N. BRAND BLVD. SUITE 560  
GLENDALE CA 91203  
6/13, 6/20, 6/27/20  
CNS-3370692#

Rotary Club of Sierra Madre *"Service Above Self"*

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR ZOOM MEETING  
**Tuesday, June 16 at 8:00am**

MEET AND CHAT WITH  
**PETE SIBERELL**  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SPECIAL PROJECTS AT SANTA ANITA PARK

To join in send an email requesting our ZOOM meeting link to  
**joanriback@gmail.com**

The Kensington offers more comprehensive services than any other area senior living community

<p><b>Licensed Assisted Living</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomes residents who:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- are frail and/or wheelchair bound</li> <li>- require 2- or 3-person assistance</li> <li>- use oxygen</li> <li>- require pureed meals and/or special diets</li> <li>- need colostomy, catheter and/or wound care</li> <li>- need hospice care</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Diabetes management (sliding scale)</li> <li>• Medication administration, including injections</li> <li>• Rehab on-site by HealthPro includes physical, speech and occupational therapies and exercise programs</li> <li>• Physician's office on-site, including numerous specialists</li> </ul>	<p><b>Higher Level Professional Staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full-time RN Director of Nursing</li> <li>• Nurse on premises 24 hours a day, 7 days a week</li> <li>• Medication administration by nurses</li> <li>• Dedicated Assisted Living Director</li> <li>• Dedicated Director of Memory Care</li> <li>• Full-time Memory Care Supervisor</li> <li>• Full-time Activities Coordinator in Assisted Living and Memory Care</li> </ul>	<p><b>Progressive Memory Care Expertise</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connections Neighborhood for residents with early- to mid-stage dementia</li> <li>• Haven Neighborhood with a 1:5 care ratio for residents with mid- to late-stage dementia</li> <li>• Accommodates residents with late-stage dementia, including those with behavior challenges</li> <li>• Pocket programming—customized small-group activities</li> <li>• Partnership programs and collaborations with specialty professionals who generate positive care outcomes based upon current research findings</li> </ul>
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CITY OF SIERRA MADRE POLICE

**EMERGENCY SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENT**

**ROAD TO CHANTRY FLATS CLOSED**

Executive Order No. 2020-01

The portion of Chantry Flat Road within the jurisdiction of the City of Sierra Madre is closed to all vehicles and pedestrians. The full executive order can be found on the home page of the City's website (cityofsierramadre.com)

# SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

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## CITY OF SIERRA MADRE

### PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY NOTICE

From: The City of Sierra Madre  
 Subject: 2020-2021 ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS  
 Applicant: City of Sierra Madre  
 Project Location: Properties in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, Notice is hereby given that on June 23, 2020, at 6:30 PM, or soon thereafter, the Sierra Madre City Council will conduct a Public Hearing, to hear testimony on the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Assessments Districts:

The eight Districts are as follows:

Oakwood Vista Lighting District  
 Lighting District A  
 Lighting District B  
 Central Business District Landscaping Maintenance District 256.94  
 Central Business District Parking Maintenance District 256.99  
 Community Facilities District No 1, One Carter  
 E. Mira Monte Sewer Assessment District  
 E. Bonita Sewer Assessment District

The City is proposing that the Districts' assessments stay unchanged for the next fiscal year 2020-2021, and that charges be implemented for the 7th year for Community Facilities District No 1, which begins July 1, 2020, and ends on June 30, 2021. The requisite Engineer's report for the Districts was heard by the City Council at its regular meeting of June 23, 2020.

Assessments will be submitted to the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office, the first week of August 2020. These assessments will appear on the next property tax bill for those properties within the Assessment Districts.

To review the Engineer's Report or the list of parcels and assessments, or if you have any questions about this matter, please contact Director of Public Works Chris Cimino at 626-355-6615.

Posted on July 13, 2020

#### DATE AND TIME OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre City Council meeting: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 (Hearing begins at 6:30 p.m.)

#### PLACE OF HEARING

This meeting will be conducted utilizing teleconference communications and will be recorded for live streaming. In accordance with the State of California Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, all City of Sierra Madre public meetings will be solely available via live streaming and made available on the City's official website.

- Watch the meeting on Channel 3 (Government Access Channel) or live on the City's website at [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com)
- Email public comments to: [publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com) by 6:00 PM on the day of the meeting.
- Requests for verbal public comment must include name, phone number, and agenda item number and must be e-mailed to above email address by 6 PM on the day of the meeting. City staff will call the phone number provided at the appropriate public comment time.
- To participate in public comment please call: (669) 900-9128; Meeting I.D: 626-232-0232; Password: 232242

By:  
 Laura Aguilar  
 Assistant City Clerk  
 626-355-7135

## WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

On this date in 1789, Mrs. Alexander Hamilton served ice cream for dessert to Washington dignitaries.

On this date in 1978, The film "Grease" opened, starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.

On this date in 1922, the longest recorded attack of hiccups begins: Charlie Osborne gets the hiccups and continues for 68 years. Dies 11 months after it stops.

On this date in 1958, Frank Zappa graduates from Antelope Valley High School in Lancaster, California.

"Trivial things do matter...more people are killed each year by the bite of mosquitoes than are stepped upon by charging elephants."



After the last couple of weeks, filled with staggering events, pain, death, injustice and our world turned even more upside down than it's been since Covid 19 took center stage, I thought a little trivia might be a relief. Hope it was.

The last few weeks I've been able to use some beautiful photographs by Sierra Madre photographer, Lawrence Taylor. I first noticed his work on Facebook, where you can see it, too. Lawrence takes the kinds of pictures the rest of us wish we could take, i.e., without a big street sign in the middle of it, or some person we didn't see and certainly didn't want to include, till the moment and the picture are over. He has some excellent beach pictures taken in Ventura on his page, so you might want to take a look.

In his own words, "I started taking photos when I was around ten years old. School trips and holidays and even back then I was always trying a different angle, not your usual holiday snaps. That would carry on through my life. A photograph is either a picture of an object or something that grabs you and takes you on a journey. I prefer the latter. Each photo is individually processed and I think that harks back to my live performance photography days. Light levels fluctuate all the time, so you have to adjust your camera constantly from shot to shot. I always work in manual mode, which allows for more creativity."

For those of us who take all our pictures with our phone, no wonder Lawrence's look so much better! As he says, "I'd like to think that the viewer notices something different on a second or even third look."

Originally from Oldham, near Manchester in the UK, Lawrence came to live in Sierra Madre last August, to marry his wife, Jennifer, who teaches here in our middle school. This after traveling to and from the UK for several years. Again, to quote Lawrence, "The first morning I awoke in Sierra Madre and ventured on a small walk, I noticed the colors. It was a sensory overload, as though I'd spent previous years in monochrome. I'd often take photos when we ventured out, mostly of L.A.'s famous landmarks and never paid much attention to what is right on my doorstep. That all changed once I moved here and truly discovered Sierra Madre." Lawrence speaks of hiking up the Mt. Wilson Trail to First Water, one of my dear John's most favorite things in the world to do. "It is truly beautiful and the views are magnificent. I remember there was a light rain and a mist in the canyon below. A magical day." John came home so many times from his hike up the Trail and would and say pretty much that same thing.

The Canyon area is Lawrence's favorite destination at the moment, going early in the morning to catch the sunlight beaming through the trees. You'll recognize the covered bridge that is today's picture by Lawrence. He also has a photo of some nasturtiums that is so beautifully framed you think you can touch them. His photo of the Sierra Madre Playhouse at night with the stars and night sky as a background is beyond beautiful.

Working as a freelance photographer in the UK for various music magazines, Lawrence has taken pictures of just about every musician you can name. Starting as the guy on the door at a major venue in Manchester, he moved on to backstage security and then on to stage work; eventually working for every major band in the world in one capacity or another. In 2014 an old friend with a local band asked him to take some photos and, as he had contacts, due to his previous work in the music industry, he got back into that business again. His band photos are striking and a cut above the usual.

Lawrence commented that he has seen some great photos coming from other Sierra Madre photographers...Robert Gjerde and his pictures of bears comes to mind. "I hope I've influenced people in a small way to take a camera with them and capture the beautiful surroundings that many of us take for granted. And just one last thing: Print your pictures! Put them on the wall, give them as gifts. It will inspire you and improve your photography. Anyone can take a photo, but not everyone can take a good photo."

You're going to have to agree with me that all Lawrence Taylor's photos are GOOD photos! Look him up on Facebook and enjoy some of his work. He is currently putting together a website which will feature a Sierra Madre section and eventually all his prints will be available for purchase.

Take care of yourself this week, dear friends and neighbors. Be kind. Just be kind.

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis  
 Where you'll find "Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope"  
 And "A Tablespoon of Love, A Tablespoon of Laughter"  
 Take a look at both of these books, stuffed with hope and the Occasional good recipe.  
 Blog: [www.authordeanne.com](http://www.authordeanne.com)  
 Follow me on Twitter, too! <https://twitter.com/@playwrightdd>

## The Four Seasons Tea Room

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 Saturdays 11am and  
 2:30pm  
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75 N. Baldwin Ave., Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
 Please call for Reservations (626) 355-0045



## WATER BILLING IS TRANSITIONING TO MONTHLY BILLS ON JULY 1, 2020

### HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Addresses east of Baldwin will receive two bills in July.

- One bill for the regular cycle from April 14th to June 9th
- One for June 9th - 29th

Addresses west of Baldwin will receive a partial cycle bill in July.

- May 12th - June 28th

All addresses will receive a 30-day (monthly) bill starting August 1st

### WANT TO GO PAPERLESS?

Email [waterbilling@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:waterbilling@cityofsierramadre.com) to let us know!

### BILL PAYMENT RESOURCES

- Online payments: [municipalonlinepayments.com/sierramadrec](http://municipalonlinepayments.com/sierramadrec)
- Setting up autopay: Find our EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) form on our website ([cityofsierramadre.com](http://cityofsierramadre.com)) and email to [waterbilling@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:waterbilling@cityofsierramadre.com)

### CHECK YOUR DAILY WATER USAGE ONLINE AT: CITYOFSIERRAMADRE.COM/AMI

Call (626) 264 - 8914 if you need help setting up your water meter customer portal



## REOPENINGS IN THE CITY

In line with the updated Safer At Home Order, the following outdoor amenities are reopened

### TENNIS COURTS DOG PARKS

- Physical distancing of six (6) feet must be maintained at all times.

#### Guidelines for tennis:

- Only singles play will be permitted.
- Each participant must bring their own bucket of balls with their initials on each ball. Participants will only be permitted to handle their own tennis and pickleball balls.
- Participants will be required to wear face coverings at all times except during play.
- Bring water and hand sanitizer or disinfecting wipes to wash and sanitize hands frequently.
- A maximum of one-hour play will be allowed on heavy traffic days.
- No lessons involving two (2) or more tennis or pickleball students are allowed.

# Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 60s
Mon	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Tues	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Wed	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Thur	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Fri	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

## SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS

As part of the City of Sierra Madre's COVID-19 transmission mitigation efforts, all City Council, Commission and Board meetings with be conducted virtually until further notice. The Brown Act provides the public with an opportunity to make public comments at any public meeting.

Public comment may be made by e-mail to [PublicComment@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:PublicComment@cityofsierramadre.com) by 6:00PM. on the day of the meeting. The public may also text their comments to (626) 355-6214 by 6:00PM on the day of the meeting.

Requests to provide verbal public comment must include name, phone number, and agenda item number and must be e-mailed or texted to the above email address or phone number by 6:00PM on the day of the meeting. City staff will call the phone number provided at the appropriate public comment time.

Emails and texts will be acknowledged at the Council meeting and filed into public record. The meeting will be streamed live on the City's website at [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com) and broadcasted on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum).

For more information, please contact Assistant City Clerk, Laura Aguilar in the City Clerk's Office via email at [laguilar@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:laguilar@cityofsierramadre.com) or by telephone at (626) 355-7135.

## 1630 AM EMERGENCY RADIO & Free on-air publicity for local events

Sierra Madre's EMERGENCY radio station is now accepting scripts for Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about community events. PSAs will be broadcast on the air at no charge. The station operates 24/7 and can be heard at 1630 on the AM dial.

Any local non-profit or non-commercial organization can have their event information broadcast to the public on Sierra Madre Community Information Radio. The station covers the city of Sierra Madre, plus surrounding areas of Pasadena, Arcadia, and Monrovia.

- Your event must:
- Benefit a non-commercial or non-profit entity
  - Be open to the public
  - Be of general interest to local citizens

Just write a Public Service Announcement that describes your event and e-mail it to [radio@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:radio@cityofsierramadre.com).

Sierra Madre Woman's Club CELEBRATING 63 Years

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GFWCSierraMadreWomansClub.org  
[SierraMadreWomansClub](https://www.facebook.com/SierraMadreWomansClub)

## THE SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY BEGINS NEW CHECK-OUT SYSTEM IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 CLOSURE.

In an effort to continue supporting our patrons during this difficult time, the Sierra Madre Public Library will offer a single, over the phone check-out per patron. To the extent to which we can, a Library Staff Member will take patron requests for materials over the phone, and materials will be checked out to the member's card and prepared for pick up. Upon arriving at the Library, patrons will call from a designated waiting area outside of the building, and a staff member will check their identification and transfer materials to them, in keeping with social distancing standards.

We at the Sierra Madre Public Library believe that everyone has the right to access materials and information; however, this opportunity will be revoked out of a greater concern for the Sierra Madre Community and City Staff, should the need arise.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to work together in service of our community.

### KIWANIS CLUB OF SIERRA MADRE

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26 N. Baldwin Ave.  
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
Mon-Sat 11-6 Sunday 12-5  
626-351-2004

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We Serve God and Our Community!

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Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
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[sm\\_umc@verizon.net](mailto:sm_umc@verizon.net)  
website - [smumc.net](http://smumc.net)

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# Pasadena Altadena



News From Your Community For Your Community

## All Fireworks are Illegal in Pasadena

*City ordinance to be strictly enforced*

Fire danger and injuries from fireworks still exist even in the midst of a pandemic crisis. The City of Pasadena municipal code holds property owners and tenants responsible for permitting the possession, sale, usage or discharge of fireworks on their property. The ordinance allows for the prosecution of fireworks-related offenses and for the demand of payment for all costs associated with the safe disposal of confiscated fireworks. The City maintains a zero tolerance enforcement policy for fireworks, and Pasadena's police and firefighters are teaming up for special fireworks enforcement patrols before and during the Fourth of July holiday. Violators are subject to arrest; having their vehicles impounded; and serving up to one year in jail and fines up to \$50,000.

National Fire Protection Association statistics reveal that a majority of fireworks-related injuries are caused by so-called "safe and sane" fireworks, which are illegal in Pasadena.

Help keep all of us, our children, our homes, and our property safe from illegal fireworks. If you see something, say something! Call Pasadena Police at (626) 744-4241 to report illegal fireworks and other suspicious activities.

Due to the potential for fire hazards and injuries, Pasadena police and fire personnel will patrol the city looking for illegal firework activity, and police officers will seize fireworks in an effort to protect the public. Parking enforcement officers will ensure that vehicles illegally parked in Pasadena's hillside areas on July 4 are impounded.

The Pasadena Fire Department will be applying Phos-Chek to brush areas around the Arroyo area. The main ingredients of this fire retardant are phosphates and fertilizers to help prevent plants from burning and to re-vegetate burned wildland areas.

For more information visit: [cityofpasadena.net](http://cityofpasadena.net).

## Library Expands Curbside Pickup to More Sites

Pasadena library has expanded curbside pickup service this week to seven of its branch libraries. Curbside pickup service is now available Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Central Library and Allendale, Hastings, Lamanda Park, La Pintoresca, Linda Vista, San Rafael and Santa Catalina Branch Libraries.

Library patrons are able to pick up previously-reserved materials at their neighborhood branch. Patrons are contacted individually via email or phone when their reserved materials are ready for pickup, and then provided instructions as to when and where to pick them up.

Reserve library materials for curbside pickup online at: [pasadenapubliclibrary.net](http://pasadenapubliclibrary.net) using their Pasadena Public Library card number.

Pasadena Public Library buildings are closed to the public until further notice.



## State Orders Nursing Home Evacuated

By Dean Lee

The California Attorney General's office ordered Thursday all residents at Golden Cross Health Care nursing home in East Pasadena evacuated over failing to provide basic care and medical needs. The facility also has a high number of positive COVID-19 cases.

Ambulances lined Fair Oaks Ave., in front of the nursing home, late into the night Thursday. All 63 residents were transferred to other facilities in Los Angeles County.

"This was a 12 hour process yesterday because you need to find facilities that have COVID units or wards," Pasadena Public Officer Lisa Derderian said. "We had to alert all the families."

According to Derderian, the Department of Justice "de-licensed" the facility days before for health violations, "they were

running unlicensed."

She said the situation could lead to criminal prosecution. This is the first nursing home in the county to have a license suspended and evacuated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Derderian said it was unlikely the facility would reopen anytime soon.

"The police department is investigating, the city attorney is involved with several of the allegations and looking into the owners of this place in particular," Derderian said.

She said city officials, including the fire department had been trying to resolve issues at the nursing home for months. "They took no corrective actions on any of the numerous violations."

Derderian said had they waited any longer, some of the residents would have needed hospitalization.

She said violations included, neglect, abuse, not offering treatments and other basic medical services.

Golden Cross Health Care has seen eight COVID-19 related deaths.

## Mars Rover Drivers Need Your Help

Using an online tool to label Martian terrain types, you can train an artificial intelligence algorithm that could improve the way engineers guide the Curiosity rover.

You may be able to help NASA's Curiosity rover drivers better navigate Mars. Using the online tool A14Mars to label terrain features in pictures downloaded from the Red Planet, you can train an artificial intelligence algorithm to automatically read the landscape.

Is that a big rock to the left? Could it be sand? Or maybe it's nice, flat bedrock. A14Mars, which is hosted on the citizen science website Zooniverse, lets you draw boundaries around terrain and choose one of four labels. Those labels are key to sharpening the Martian terrain-classification algorithm called SPOC (Soil Property and Object Classification).

Developed at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which has managed all of the agency's Mars rover missions, SPOC labels various terrain types, creating a visual map that helps mission team members determine which paths to take. SPOC is already in use, but the system could use further training.

"Typically, hundreds of thousands of examples are needed to train a deep learning algorithm," said Hiro Ono, an AI researcher at JPL. "Algorithms for self-driving cars, for example, are trained with numerous images of roads, signs, traffic lights, pedestrians and other vehicles. Other public datasets for deep learning contain people, animals and buildings — but no Martian landscapes."

Once fully up to speed, SPOC will be able to automatically distinguish between cohesive soil, high rocks, flat bedrock and dangerous sand dunes, sending images to Earth that will make it easier to plan Curiosity's next moves.

"In the future, we hope this algorithm can become accurate enough to do other useful tasks, like predicting how likely a rover's wheels are to slip on different surfaces," Ono said.

For more on how to help visit: [mars.nasa.gov/msl/home](http://mars.nasa.gov/msl/home).

## Convention & Visitors Bureau Launches 'Shop Pasadena'

The City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Convention & Visitors Bureau announced Tuesday the launch of "Shop Pasadena," an online webpage featuring Pasadena's small and independent retailers now open for in-store shopping and curbside pickup. City officials said Shop Pasadena arrived in time for people to shop for Father's Day, graduations, and everyday retail.

The Shop Pasadena webpage features a variety of shopping categories from apparel and entertainment to home and outdoor recreation. Retailers have opted in to be listed, and businesses who meet the minimum criteria are encouraged to submit their businesses for inclusion at: [cityofpasadena.net/retail-directory-signup](http://cityofpasadena.net/retail-directory-signup). Content must meet certain criteria.

Shop Pasadena is one of three resource directories that the City and Convention & Visitors Bureau established to support the ongoing operations and reopening of its business community. The other two resources include "Dine Pasadena," a directory of Pasadena restaurants open for takeout and curbside service as well as "Connect Pasadena," a directory of curated educational and engaging content from Pasadena businesses and cultural institutions. With



school out and summer camps yet to reopen, Connect Pasadena is a great source for the community to stay active, entertained and enlightened.

All three resources—Shop Pasadena, Dine Pasadena, and Connect Pasadena—can be found online at: [visitpasadena.com/covid-19-resources](http://visitpasadena.com/covid-19-resources).

To be added to the directories, businesses must meet certain criteria.

Pasadena's small and independent retailers that are open for business, online shopping or curbside pickup are encouraged to submit their business for inclusion at: [cityofpasadena.net/retail-directory-signup](http://cityofpasadena.net/retail-directory-signup).

Pasadena restaurants open for business, offering curbside or takeout, are encouraged to submit their business for inclusion at: [cityofpasadena.net/restaurant-signup](http://cityofpasadena.net/restaurant-signup).

Pasadena businesses with free educational or engaging content are encouraged to submit their virtual content for inclusion at: [cityofpasadena.net/virtual-connect](http://cityofpasadena.net/virtual-connect).

Since the launch of the Shop Pasadena, Dine Pasadena and Connect Pasadena directories in March, these directories have garnered over 25,000 website views.

Stay connected to the city of Pasadena at: [cityofpasadena.net](http://cityofpasadena.net).

## The Pasadena Chalk Festival Goes Virtual



Organizers for the popular Pasadena Chalk Festival held each year over Father's Day weekend at the Paseo on Colorado Blvd. announced Thursday that they will hold the festival "at home" by having participants create chalk murals at home and showing them off on social media.

Organizers said there will be no gathering at the Paseo. They suggested artists make a checklist including: What will I draw? Where will I draw? T-shirt and badge Pastel chalk

They also suggested planning a zoom party, sometime between Thursday June 18 and June 21 with your chalk team to kick it off.

When finished, post your mural on social media @pasadenachalkfestival and #pasadenachalkfestival. No entry forms are needed. The virtual event is open to everyone they said.

Organizers will then post all the murals with names of artists at: [pasadenachalkfestival.com](http://pasadenachalkfestival.com). "Sadly we can't have a silent auction this year but save your canvas for next year's festival," they said.

The Pasadena Chalk Festival began in 1993 after a summer intern at the Light Bringer Project attended a street painting festival in Paris and brought back her amazing pictures

and observations. The first "Chalk on the Walk" took place at Centennial Square at Pasadena City Hall with over 150 visual artists participating in the first Los Angeles-area event. All proceeds went toward community arts programs and HIV/AIDS resources.

In 2010, The Pasadena Chalk Festival was officially named the largest street painting festival by the Guinness World Record, welcoming more than 600 artists using over 25,000 sticks of chalk and drawing a crowd of more than 100,000 visitors in one weekend. In fact, previous festivals have attracted artists and design teams from many regions of the country, across Southern California, and virtually every Los Angeles-area community. Leading art schools, museums and cultural centers are also represented at the festival.

The Pasadena Chalk Festival is produced by The Paseo and the Light Bringer Project, as a financial benefit for the nonprofit arts organization, raising proceeds for vital arts and learning programs in the schools and cultural opportunities for those of all ages.

Officials said they hope to have the Pasadena Chalk Festival back at the Paseo in 2021

For more information visit: [pasadenachalkfestival.com](http://pasadenachalkfestival.com).

## Pasadena Allows for More Businesses to Now Reopen

The City of Pasadena has issued a revised Health Order that allows for additional sectors of the local economy to reopen while the community slows the spread of COVID-19. Sectors included in the latest health order and deemed safe to reopen with appropriate health protocols in place include day camps; hotels, lodging and short-term rentals; museums and galleries; fitness facilities,

including pools; music, film and TV production; and professional sports- without spectators.

If your business is identified as one eligible to reopen under the revised Public Health Order, your business must implement industry-specific protocols and complete a checklist to resume operations. Guidance is expected to be published within the next 24 hours on the city website: [cityofpasadena.net](http://cityofpasadena.net).

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## ARCADIA CITY HALL OPEN TO PUBLIC BEGINNING JUNE 15

*Police Department, Community Center, Library, and Museum Remain Closed; Virtual Services are Still Available and Encouraged*

June 10, 2020 – The City of Arcadia is reopening City Hall and other City facilities to the public for services as part of the Safer at Work and in the Community Order issued by Los Angeles County. Beginning Monday, June 15, 2020, open facilities now include City Hall, the Fire Department, Public Works Services, and City parks and open spaces. The Arcadia Police Department, Community Center, Public Library, and Museum remain closed to the public; however, services by appointment or virtual services are still available and encouraged. As a reminder, if you are feeling sick, have sick family members, or have symptoms like a fever or cough, please stay home and contact your primary care physician. The City of Arcadia reserves the right to limit or deny access to City facilities.

All City departments are fully staffed to respond to requests for services by phone, email, or online, and the public is encouraged to continue to use these services in order to help limit the spread of COVID-19. Arcadia City Council meetings will still be conducted virtually during the month of June but will resume in-person meetings beginning July 2020, with limited attendance per existing social distancing guidelines. To enter City facilities, visitors will be required to do the following:

- You must wear a mask to prevent the spread in City facilities
- Clean your hands at the door
- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet in lines for services
- Avoid touching your face and cover coughs and sneezes
- We may take your temperature before allowing access to City facilities

“Los Angeles County continues to ease COVID-19 restrictions,” said City Manager Dominic Lazzaretto. “We have installed the necessary safety measures in City facilities that will allow the public to enter and conduct business. Our larger venues like the Community Center and Library will remain closed until the State releases guidelines for re-opening high traffic facilities safely,” he added.

On May 29, 2020, the County of Los Angeles issued a new Safer at Work and in the Community Order to allow retail establishments including shopping malls and other lower-risk businesses to begin reopening under certain guidelines and restrictions. A copy of the Los Angeles County Order and additional regulations can be found on the City’s website at [ArcadiaCA.gov/covid19](http://ArcadiaCA.gov/covid19) or by visiting [publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov).

Per the latest information from local, state, and federal public health officials, the risk of contracting the virus remains low. There are steps individuals can take to help minimize and prevent the spread of COVID-19. These include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching face (eyes, nose, and mouth) with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wear face coverings whenever there can be contact with anyone who does not live in your household.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Practice social distancing; avoid groups; maintain at least 6 feet from others.

Anyone who was recently in an area that is currently experiencing a high infection rate of COVID-19 and feels sick with a fever, cough, or has difficulty breathing within 14 days after leaving should:

- Seek medical care right away. Before going to a doctor’s office or emergency room, patients should call ahead and tell them about their recent travel and symptoms.
- Self-quarantine and avoid contact with others.
- Not travel while sick.
- Cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or their sleeve (not their hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to avoid spreading the virus to others. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

For more information regarding the COVID-19, please visit any of the following websites:

Federal Guidance – [coronavirus.gov](http://coronavirus.gov)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)  
State of California Guidance – [covid19.ca.gov](http://covid19.ca.gov)  
California Department of Public Health – [cdph.gov](http://cdph.gov)  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health – [publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov)  
National Domestic Violence Hotline – [thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org) – (800) 799-7233  
National Suicide Prevention Hotline – [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org) – (800) 273-8255

For more information regarding the City of Arcadia’s response to COVID-19 along with future updates regarding City services, text ARCADIACOV19 to 888777 for SMS updates or please visit us at [ArcadiaCA.gov/covid19](http://ArcadiaCA.gov/covid19) or contact us at (626) 574-5401.

## What’s Open Guide:

Department	Public Access/Services	Facilities
City Manager’s Office <a href="mailto:citymanager@ArcadiaCA.gov">citymanager@ArcadiaCA.gov</a> (626) 574-5401	Open	City Hall 240 W. Huntington Drive
Arcadia Police Department <a href="mailto:arcadiapolice@ArcadiaCA.gov">arcadiapolice@ArcadiaCA.gov</a> (626) 574-5150	By Appointment; Walk-In Services for Court Documents	Arcadia Police Department 250 W. Huntington Drive
Arcadia Fire Department <a href="mailto:arcadiafire@ArcadiaCA.gov">arcadiafire@ArcadiaCA.gov</a> (626) 574-5100	Open	Arcadia Fire Department 710 S. Santa Anita Ave
Public Works Services <a href="mailto:publicworks@ArcadiaCA.gov">publicworks@ArcadiaCA.gov</a> (626) 254-2720	Open	Public Works Services 11800 Goldring Rd.
Development Services <a href="mailto:DSD@ArcadiaCA.gov">DSD@ArcadiaCA.gov</a> (626) 574-5415	Open	City Hall 240 W. Huntington Drive
Arcadia Public Library <a href="mailto:publiclibrary@ArcadiaCA.gov">publiclibrary@ArcadiaCA.gov</a> (626) 821-5567	Virtual only; Curbside services	Arcadia Public Library and Gilb Museum are closed; contact Library for more details
Recreation & Comm. Services <a href="mailto:recreation@ArcadiaCA.gov">recreation@ArcadiaCA.gov</a> (626) 574-5113	Virtual and by appointment; Parks and open spaces are open with social distancing restrictions	Various; Community Center is closed; contact Recreation for more details
Administrative Services <a href="mailto:ASD@ArcadiaCA.gov">ASD@ArcadiaCA.gov</a> (626) 574-5405	Open	City Hall 240 W. Huntington Drive

For more information regarding the City services, please contact the City Manager’s Office at (626) 574-5401 or visit our website at [ArcadiaCA.gov](http://ArcadiaCA.gov).

## ALTADENA - SO. PASADENA - SAN MARINO

## South Pas Releases Statement Regarding Financial Oversight

## Responds to Input Made by Former City Employee

The South Pasadena City Council responded to community input regarding the status of its financial controls at last night’s public meeting. Mayor Robert Joe explained that the City Council was recently made aware of community concerns about the City’s financial processes based on public comments by a former City employee. “This City Council firmly believes the community has every right to know about our financial condition, the oversight processes we now have in place, and how we are managing our resources during this very challenging period,” he said. The City Council and staff continue to prepare the City budget, which must be adopted by the end of June. The Council pledged to not take action to adopt the 2020-21 fiscal year budget until the City Finance Commission fully reviews all changes made since its last review.

Related to the criticism from the former finance department staff member, Mayor Joe said, “I want to assure the community that we take these concerns seriously. Over the past few years, we have made significant changes in our procedures so that our financial record-keeping and forecasting is far more rigorous than in the past. We recognize the critical importance of having the community trust us to manage our public resources wisely, and we have taken significant steps to earn that trust.”

Mayor Pro Tem Diana Mahmud, who served as the City Council’s liaison to the Finance Commission during the relevant period of the City’s review of the Finance Department, made the following statement:

“About three years ago, we learned of some accounting errors and deficiencies that had gone undetected for several years during previous Finance Director’s and City Manager’s tenures. We took immediate action to correct these issues, including conducting a forensic audit to find out exactly what happened and how it could be prevented in the future. We want to be very clear: the audit confirmed that no city funds are missing. The audit did highlight the need for process improvements and we have made them in our operations, including a reorganization of our Finance Department; stronger internal controls; and contracting out for services such as payroll and business licensing.”

“We are continually examining our operations to maximize efficient use of our limited resources and have the proper tools in place to weather financial downturns such as the one we are now experiencing. As the Mayor stated, our Finance Commission will review our budget once again before the Council considers its adoption at our June 24th meeting. We encourage the community to ask questions, provide feedback, and share comments. You expect and deserve nothing less.”

City Manager Stephanie DeWolfe, who was hired by the City three years ago to bring a higher level of oversight of financial operations, spent time during the Council meeting to provide an update to the City Council and community:

“I would like to provide the Council and the community with a brief history of our financial procedures and operations, outline the significant changes we have made to become even more responsible stewards of public resources, and address the points made in a recent communication from a former City staff member.

“Let’s begin by noting that the community has every right to expect full disclosure and transparency regarding our financial operations, reserves, and other aspects of city management. I understand the frustration among some members of our community and welcome any opportunity to discuss our finances in detail.

“First, some background on how we got to where we are today. In late 2017, we discovered a pattern of inappropriate accounting practices and internal control deficiencies dating back several years, spanning several previous Finance Directors, which, among other things, inflated the size of the unrestricted General Fund.

This same accounting issue shows up in the City’s 2017/2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Staff brought the concerns to the City Council, which quickly directed staff to begin the process of investigating and determining the full extent of the problem. We immediately put into place proper protocols to correct these practices while we began detailed work to reconcile all funds. We found that the amount of funds in various categories were over- and under-stated, resulting in the unrestricted General Fund to appear larger than it really is. Very importantly though, and as the mayor (vice mayor) pointed out: we found there are no missing funds in any City account. The location where various funds were inaccurately placed was not disclosed or discussed in previous audits; the City has a new independent auditing firm to increase the overview of internal controls, including proper accounting.

“We began the process of documenting and reallocating dollars to the appropriate accounts for multiple previous years. This effort was – and continues to be – time consuming and labor-intensive. We have a small team of employees in the Finance Department, and while they work to complete clean-up efforts, they must also continue to process the City’s daily business such as paying bills, managing audits, monitoring the budget, and preparing the budget for the next fiscal year. As a result, the clean-up efforts will require additional time to complete.

“We also put other measures in place to strengthen the Finance Department and reduce the potential for similar deficiencies in the future. This included restructuring the department, hiring additional specialized staff, contracting out other financial services at a savings to the City, hiring a new independent audit firm, creating and enforcing new policies, training and cross-training employees, and introducing new technology.

“It’s important for the community to know that the presentation of the draft budget for the 2020/21 budget year was delayed from June 3 due to the curfew put into place by Los Angeles County, and as a result, the final adoption of the budget is delayed until June 24. In addition to the budget presentation, at that meeting we will provide a much deeper explanation and review of the actions we have taken to address the previously identified deficiencies. Prior to that meeting, I thought it would be helpful to provide a brief timeline of events during the past few years that have brought us to where we are today. We will make that document available tomorrow (June 11, 2020) afternoon.

“Also, since the budget was presented to the Finance Commission on May 26, there were changes made to the draft budget posted on the City website as a result of updated non-general fund revenue estimates provided by Los Angeles County and changes in department budgets in response to evolving Safer at Home rules. Those changes will be presented to the Finance Commission next week along with a discussion of the enhanced fiscal controls now in place. It is important to note that department budgets and revenue estimates will continue to evolve as the County permits more services and businesses to reopen. We must recognize that we are still in a very fluid environment regarding estimates and predictions. Because of this, we anticipate presenting a budget update to Council at least quarterly, and potentially more often if circumstances demand. That said, we are confident that the accounting and allocation of General Fund monies, including General Fund reserves, is more accurate today than it was in 2017 or in the 2017/2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.”

The City’s Finance Commission will hear a presentation from City staff on June 18, 2020 regarding the 2020-21 budget; a recommendation to the City Council by the Commission is expected at this meeting. The City Council will review the draft budget and Commission recommendations and consider adoption of the budget at its meeting on June 24, 2020.

## Altadena Library Curbside Pickup

Just in time for Summer Reading, the Altadena Libraries announce the launch of curbside pickup services at the Main Library. The services started last week, library cardholders may start calling in to place orders of up to 10 items for curbside pickup. Call (626) 798-0833 and press 4 when prompted to place an order with library staff. Orders are accepted Monday - Saturday from 10:00am - 4:00pm. Curbside pickup takes place in the Main Library parking lot at 600 E. Mariposa Street (entrance on Santa Rosa Avenue) Monday - Saturday at 11:00am - 1:00pm and 3:30 - 5:30pm. Once staff verifies your identity, your order will be placed on a table adjacent to your car so that you can retrieve your items while socially distanced.

## South Pas ‘Library Takeout’ Service Launches June 15

Starting Monday, June 15, the South Pasadena Public Library is offering Library Takeout, a no-contact materials check-out and pick-up service. While customers are not allowed to enter the building, the Library seeks to help our community members engage their minds and access library materials through Library Takeout.

Customers will be able to request materials which will be checked-out, bagged, and available for pick-up at the Library’s main entrance at 1100 Oxley Street. For detailed information about the Library Takeout service and Frequently Asked Questions, visit the Library’s website: [southpasadenaca.gov/librarytakeout](http://southpasadenaca.gov/librarytakeout). Library Takeout will be available during the following hours:

Monday 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Friday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Customers can request materials by placing holds in the Library Catalog ([southpasadenaca.gov/catalog](http://southpasadenaca.gov/catalog)), or by completing an online form for our Materials Matchmaker recommendation service ([southpasadenaca.gov/matchmaker](http://southpasadenaca.gov/matchmaker)), or by calling the Reference Desk at 626-403-7350 during Library Takeout hours.

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# AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY



## REP. SCHIFF OFFERS REFLECTIONS ON RACISM IN AMERICA

Los Angeles, CA – In response to the murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and other Black Americans by police officers, and the widespread uprising of protesters demanding an end to police brutality, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank)

released a video over the week-end offering his reflections on racism in America.

This is a most painful and difficult time in the life of our nation.

For months, in cities and towns across America, a virus – COVID-19 – has literally robbed us of our breath. When infected, we may be brought low, made feverish and struggle to fill our lungs with air. Without the help of a ventilator, and sometimes even with its assistance, we are robbed of our ability to breathe.

And although this virus can strike anyone and has infected the young and old alike, the powerful and the powerless, it is proving most devastating to communities of color and those in disadvantaged communities, and particularly black Americans.

This makes sense. A shocking, grim sense. Because while the virus itself does not discriminate, our system certainly does.

Doctors speak of co-morbidities, and for black Americans, COVID-19 has been made exceptionally lethal by the presence of another virus that long preceded it. Only this second pathogen does not inhabit the patient, but sometimes his or her doctor or nurse, his neighbor or her employer, the local emergency department — or the local police department.

I speak, of course, of the virus of racism.

Racism is the original sin of our nation. Our ancestors brought it with them to the new world, where settlers stripped the native inhabitants of their land and a new government wiped out whole populations.

Racism fueled our drive to send ships to the West African coast and other destinations, turning precious human lives into cargo and making slaves of fellow human beings.

Throughout the course of our history, we have fought the virus of racism through a bloody civil war, a civil rights movement, generations of peaceful protest and progressive legislation. We have made progress, but only haltingly and at great cost.

For racism is always with us. Sometimes out in the open, sometimes not. But always present, changing and mutating, occasionally seeming to lay dormant only to recur with a frightful intensity.

And in Minneapolis on May 25, when a police officer put his knee on the neck of George Floyd and kept it there for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, racism was at the heart of that murderous depravity.

For almost six years, and before I entered politics, I served as a federal prosecutor in Los Angeles. As I entered the courtroom each day, I was proud to introduce myself as appearing on behalf of the United States. And although I helped to prosecute crooked cops and other corrupt officials, I believed most of law enforcement to be good, well-intentioned, and courageous people. I still do. It is heartening to see many law enforcement officers marching today, arm in arm with protestors, or taking a knee to express their solidarity with those calling for an end to racial injustice.

As President Obama recently said, these police officers are an important part of the conversation, and it is heartening, to quote the former President, that “so many young people have been galvanized and activated and motivated and mobilized.” That should make us all hopeful. We are witnessing a truly historic moment in which a diverse array of people from all walks of life are standing up, speaking out, and peacefully protesting for a desperately needed change in this country.

And yet, we have so far to travel. As a prosecutor, I was not naive enough to believe that there wasn't racism in our criminal justice system. But I believed that we were making real progress combatting discrimination. It is difficult for me to have that confidence now. Not today. There is so much work to be done.

The crushing and suffocating reality of police brutality against black Americans is, tragically, everywhere. On country roads and city streets, in the dead of night and in broad daylight. Cit-

ies across America have become synonymous with unspeakable violence against people of color and all genders, but predominantly black men and boys. Cities like Ferguson, Decatur, Chicago, Memphis, Baltimore, Oakland, Miami, Dallas, Durham, Cincinnati, Tulsa, Los Angeles. And now Minneapolis.

It should not have been a revelation to me. I should not have needed to see it with my own two eyes, these terrible images from cell phones and body cams over more than a decade, of men like Ahmaud Arbery, shot while jogging, women like Rekia Boyd gunned down in a park or like Breonna Taylor in her own home, or men like Eric Garner and George Floyd, struggling to breathe until choked to death by bigotry in a uniform. And so, so many more.

The virus of racism persists in part because we can never fully understand what it is like to stand in someone else's shoes. I can never fully understand what it means to be stopped while walking down the street, or while driving, just because of the color of my skin. I can never fully understand what it means to have a talk with my child about how to survive a police encounter. We see each other but dimly, even with both eyes open.

And yet, we must try. We must not turn away. We must acknowledge our own implicit biases. We must join together, not stand apart or stay silent. And use our voices to lift up, rather than divide.

For more than two decades I have been a legislator. I believe in the power of corrective action through collective action, in the ability of the law to address injustice, and the courts to effectuate it. I believe in the power of oversight in Congress, in our state legislatures, through police commissions and through public inquiry and protest.

Many Americans, including those who cannot breathe and live in fear of the police, do not see these levers of power as protecting them, or even representing them. And rightfully so. The same offices that can be used for good, can and have been used to oppress. That must change.

We can and must do better for those suffocating on our city streets whether under the knee of a racist cop or from a system of justice that has perpetuated inequality and injustice.

And we must do so with a sense of urgency. Because Black Lives Matter. It shouldn't be difficult for white Americans to say so, such a fundamental truth. Black Lives Matter. Period.

What can Congress do to help, and not hurt? To lift up, and to combat systemic bias and racism?

Soon, we will be introducing a broad legislative package in the House to begin to address a discriminatory system that continues to victimize black Americans, with bills conceptualized and drafted by the Congressional Black Caucus.

But changes in the law are not enough. Changes in procedure and training alone will not do. Changes in how we address each other will not suffice.

We must dig deeper if we are to understand and combat this plague. Last week, we witnessed a miracle of human achievement as America once again launched its astronauts into space with a massive and controlled explosion. At times it seems we can conquer the heavens, and yet there is still so much on the ground that we are incapable of achieving or even understanding. For these answers, we cannot look to the unfathomable distances between the stars, but to the uncomfortable truths within and the sometimes unbridgeable distances between each of us here on earth.

I believe in America. I believe in its ideals and its future. Even at times like this. If black Americans who have had to endure so much, have never given up hope, if they believe that America can be a more perfect union and are willing to fight for that future, as they have shown time and time again as they take to the streets, then who am I to lose faith? And for those who have lost hope, how can we, together, restore it?

My job now is to lift up, and do what I can to help heal. In times like these, we often turn to those who have led our nation in the past, to those who have spoken to our better angels and to our highest ideals.

At the time of another unfathomable act of hatred and death, the bombing death of four little children in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Martin Luther King, Jr. imagined what those four angels might have to say to a divided and grieving nation:

“They say to each of us,” he said “black and white alike, that we must substitute courage for caution. They say to us that we must be concerned not merely about who murdered them, but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy which produced the murderers. Their death says to us that we must work passionately and unrelentingly for the realization of the American dream.”

Amen. And let us do so, with the fierce urgency of now.

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

As of Friday, June 12, 2020, To date, Public Health has identified 70,476 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of LA County, and a total of 2,832 deaths. Ninety-three percent of people who died had underlying health conditions. Of those who died, information about race and ethnicity is available for 2,629 people (99 percent of the cases reported by Public Health) 41% of deaths occurred among Latino/Latinx residents, 29% among White residents, 17% among Asian residents, 11% among African American residents, 1% among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and residents identifying with other races. Upon further investigation, 32 cases and one death reported earlier were not LA County residents. As of Friday, 7,250 people who tested positive for COVID-19 (11% of positive cases) have been hospitalized at some point during their illness. There are 1,389 people who are currently hospitalized, 29% of these people are in the ICU and 20% are on ventilators. Testing capacity continues to increase in LA County, with testing results available for over 761,000 individuals and 8% of people testing positive.

Public Health continues to track disproportionality in health outcomes by race, ethnicity and income level data of people who have been tested, hospitalized and died from COVID-19. This data is analyzed as rates per 100,000 people to make comparisons with other groups across the County and to understand which groups are disproportionately affected. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders have a death rate of 52 per 100,000, African Americans have a death of 33 per 100,000, Latinos/Latinxs have a death of 32 per 100,000, Asians have a death rate of 23 per 100,000, and Whites have a death rate of 17 per 100,000. People who live in areas with high rates of poverty have almost four times the rate of deaths for COVID-19 with 51 per 100,000 people, compared with communities with very low poverty levels who had a death rate of 15 per 100,000. Public Health and the Health Integration Alliance continues collaboration with community, healthcare, and philanthropic partners to increase access and use of COVID-19 testing, connection to care and services, awareness and support of contact tracing activities, and direct linkages to in-language, culturally responsive supportive resources, like food, housing, and other benefits to communities experiencing these inequitable outcomes.

A modified Health Officer Order and directives for the reopening of additional businesses was issued yesterday with an effective date of today, June 12. The Health Officer Order allows for the following sectors to reopen once they implement the required protocols for infection control and distancing:

- Gyms and fitness facilities
- Pro-league arenas without live audiences
- Day camps
- Museums, galleries, zoos and aquariums
- Campgrounds, RV parks and outdoor recreation
- Music, film and television production
- Hotels for leisure travel

As with all businesses that are permitted to reopen, the Health Officer Order contains protocols for reopening to ensure it is done as safely as possible for employees, customers and residents. Employees and visitors to these businesses will need to wear a cloth face covering when around other people and practice physical distancing of at least 6 feet at all times.

If anyone has been in a crowded setting, where people are congregating who are not using face coverings or distancing, or if you had close contact (within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes) with non-household members who were not wearing face coverings please consider the following:

Remain in your residence, away from others, in quarantine for 14 days.

If you live with persons who are elderly or have high risk conditions, you should also maintain a six-foot distance and wear a face covering when you are with them at home, avoid preparing food for others, sharing utensils, bedding and towels, and increase cleaning and disinfecting of common surfaces.

Consider getting tested for COVID-19 if you have been exposed to someone that is positive or likely positive. Testing negative for COVID-19 right after being exposed does not mean you can't become infected later during the incubation period.

If anyone was possibly exposed to someone with COVID-19, and the test result is negative, they should remain at home for 14 days to prevent spreading illness to others.

For more information on how to get tested, visit: [covid19.lacounty.gov/testing](http://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing). The Health Officer Order, Reopening Protocols, COVID-19 Surveillance Interactive Dashboard, Roadmap to Recovery, Recovery Dashboard, and additional things you can do to protect yourself, your family and your community are on the Public Health website, [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov).

The best protection against COVID-19 continues to be to wash your hands frequently, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, self-isolate if you are sick, practice physical distancing and wear a clean face covering when in contact with others from outside your household. People who have underlying health conditions remain at much greater risk for serious illness from COVID-19, so it will continue to be very important for the County's vulnerable residents to stay at home as much as possible, to have groceries and medicine delivered, and to call their providers immediately if they have even mild symptoms.

## TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills [thechefknows@yahoo.com](mailto:thechefknows@yahoo.com)

So? What happened to the rush to go to a restaurant, it's been officially two weeks now that restaurants have been open. I for one haven't seen a rush to go out have you witnessed the same thing? I have been out at least five times and haven't seen one restaurant with even near half capacity

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

The hero of our tragic story, Tony, recently went to a Pasadena restaurant and ordered a glass of house cabernet. He liked the initial selection and ordered a second glass. The bill arrived and Tony was shocked to discover that each glass of wine was \$14. His night went from a great evening to one of disappointment and incredulity. Tony asked me to investigate the practice of mark-ups at restaurants. He also did some research and discovered the same bottle for \$15 at Vons. The waiter told Tony it was \$52 to purchase the whole bottle and they pour five glasses per bottle.

I reached out to my many sources in the industry and this is what I found out. Fast Eddie, bartender at the Langham, said, “\$14 is common for a good glass of wine and the math works

out to \$52 for the full bottle at that price.” Many chain restaurants use a Libby wine glass that costs them a couple of bucks, while upscale restaurants will use a higher quality glass; this also affects the cost of a glass of wine. My next call was to Bobby who owns Avanti Bar and Bistro restaurant on Sierra Madre. He tells me that his wine purveyors suggest this: Triple the cost of the bottle. Thus if you see a bottle for \$30 at your favorite restaurant the rule of the thumb is that they paid \$10 for it. My suggestion to Tony and my readers is it to never let the server blindly pick the wine.

How about corkage fees? Most restaurants charge \$4-\$15 for this service because, yes, they still have to open your bottle and clean the glasses. It is unacceptable to bring in a bottle of wine that is already listed on the restaurant's menu. If it is an owner-occupied restaurant, often it is a good gesture to let the owner sample the wine that you have brought in. Erudite wine guy Robert Ramirez offers this insightful advice, “Always have the wine list when ordering, and I do not recommend asking the servers for a wine recommendation unless you do not have any issues with the price.” I hope this helps. I learned something as well.

Become a fan of Peter Dills on Facebook, and read about events and restaurants not covered here. Email me your suggestions to the [chefknows@yahoo.com](mailto:chefknows@yahoo.com). Listen to his wine tips on Dining with Dills Sunday Morning at 8 AM on Go Country 105



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER COVID-19 UPDATE 6/12/2020 3:30pm

LOS ANGELES COUNTY		Total Cases	70,476
		Deaths	2,832

STATS BY CITY	Population	Cases	Deaths
Pasadena	14,1371	1023	84
Uninc- East Pasadena	6,403	4	0
City of Arcadia	57,754	105	6
Uninc. - Arcadia	7,981	12	1
City of Bradbury	1,069	4	0
City of Duarte	22,016	144	17
Uninc.- Duarte	4,428	18	1
City of Monrovia	38,800	185	25
Uninc - Monrovia	3,881	23	0
City of Sierra Madre	10,989	15	2
City of So.Pasadena	26,053	138	-20
Uninc.- Altadena	43,260	178	6

For updated information go to: [http://dashboard.publichealth.lacounty.gov/covid19\\_surveillance\\_dashboard/](http://dashboard.publichealth.lacounty.gov/covid19_surveillance_dashboard/)

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## CANYON OAKS HIGH SCHOOL AND MOUNTAIN PARK INDEPENDENT STUDY SCHOOL SENIORS TURN THEIR TASSELS DURING DRIVE-THRU COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

MONROVIA – Over 60 seniors from Canyon Oaks High School and Mountain Park Independent Study School were cheered on as they walked the stage to receive their diplomas during a drive-thru commencement ceremony on June 3 at Monrovia High School.

“It was an absolute honor to see our seniors’ hard work pay off as they walked that stage to experience a moment that was almost taken away from them,” Board of Education President Rob Hammond said. “Congratulations to our graduates. We wish them success as they move toward the next chapter in their lives.”

When the ceremony began, cars lined up and graduates exited their vehicles with masks on and lined up 6 feet apart from one another. Teachers were invited on stage to share their memories of each student and ended with words of encouragement for the future.

“Our Canyon Oaks and Mountain Park graduates have demonstrated the characteristics that lead to success: persistence, creativity, and hard work. These are qualities that we hope to cultivate in all our students,” Superintendent Dr. Katherine Thorossian said. “Monrovia Unified is dedicated to the achievement of every student and I am certain that our graduates will continue to be a source of pride for our community.”

As they picked up their diploma and elbow-bumped their teachers, some students were also surprised as they were presented with scholarships. Before reaching the pick-up zone at the end of the graduation stage, students met with Flint Fertig, Director of Alternative Schools, who directed them to turn their tassel from right to left.

“The Class of 2020 was presented with many obstacles this school year, but not once did they let the hardships discourage them,” Fertig said. “They pushed through everything and have fulfilled all of the graduation requirements to be here today. Congratulations to every single one of them.”

**Mountain Park Independent School graduate shows off her diploma during the school's drive-thru graduation at Monrovia High School on June 2.**



**A Canyon Oaks High School graduate celebrates as he walks on stage to pick up his diploma during the school's commencement ceremony at Monrovia High School on June 2**



A complete overview of the commencement ceremony is available on the schools' website

## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno Heights Academy  
200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-3463 Head of School: Julia V. Fanara  
E-mail address: jfanara@alvernoheights.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  
Preschool-TK-8th Grade  
Principal: Dr. William Walner  
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 E. Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010  
(626) 301-9809  
Principal: Nancy Lopez  
www.foothilloaksacademy.org  
office@foothilloaksacademy.org

Frostig School  
971 N. Altadena Drive Pasadena, CA 91107  
(626) 791-1255  
Head of School: Jenny Janetzke  
Email: jenny@frostig.org

The Gooden School  
192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-2410  
Head of School, Jo-Anne Woolner  
website: www.goodenschool.org

High Point Academy  
1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road  
Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989  
website: www.highpointacademy.org

La Salle College Preparatory  
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org  
Principal Mrs. Courtney Kassakhian

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: Roberto Hernandez  
website: http://phs.pusd.us

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: Lindsay LUIS  
E-mail address: LUIS.lindsay@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@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.monroviaschools.net

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

Arcadia Christian School  
1900 S. Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006  
Preschool - and TK - 8th Grade  
626-574-8229/626-574-0805  
Email: inquiry@acschools.com  
Principal: Cindy Harmon  
website: www.acschoolslions.com

### Walk This Way: A Story Adventure

Read Walk Enjoy!

The story begins on the NW corner of Wilson & Grandview and a new book will arrive every Monday from June 1st through July 26th.

This summer, enjoy an outdoor reading adventure for children of all ages. Each week features a new story to journey thru. This is a fun way to foster literacy and get some exercise while respecting social distancing guidelines.

Take a photo of your story adventure and tag the Library with #mystoryadventure

This is a Girl Scout Gold Award project in partnership with the Sierra Madre Public Library and the City of Sierra Madre.

## Join the Family

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**Pet of the Week**

How handsome is Pickles? This three-year-old kitty is a curious and adventurous young man who loves to explore. He's very chatty and would be a wonderful conversation buddy, even if you don't yet speak cat. Pickles is very intelligent and has a big personality, and he'll be such a fun guy to have around your house. Plus, did you notice how sleek and gorgeous he is?



The adoption fee for cats is \$90. All cat adoptions include spay or neuter, microchip, and age-appropriate vaccines.

New adopters will receive a complimentary health-and-wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals, as well as a goody bag filled with information about how to care for your pet.

View photos of adoptable pets at [pasadenahumane.org](http://pasadenahumane.org) and fill out an online adoption application. Adoptions are by appointment only.

Pets may not be available for adoption and cannot be held for potential adopters by phone calls or email.

**All Things** By Jeff Brown

On Aug. 28, 1963, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Here are 15 important quotes from that speech!!!

1. "I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream."
2. "I have a dream that one day right there in Alabama little black boys and little black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sis-ters and brothers."
3. "Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice."
4. "We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."
5. "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."
6. "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed — we hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."
7. "Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred."
8. "I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood."
9. "The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges."
10. "Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children."
11. "We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back."
12. "Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood."
13. "We refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt."
14. "In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds."
15. "When we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"



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**WHY HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE IS EVEN MORE DANGEROUS IN THE COVID-19 ERA**



**Dear Savvy Senior:**  
*Are people with high blood pressure at increased risk of getting coronavirus? Hypertensive Helen*

Dear Helen:  
If you have high blood pressure, you definitely need to take extra care to protect yourself during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Research shows that people with hypertension are more susceptible to getting COVID-19, are more likely to develop severe symptoms if they do get sick, and are more likely to die from the infection, especially if they're older.

**High Risk Links**

A weaker immune system is the key reason people with high blood pressure and other health problems are at higher risk for coronavirus. Long-term health conditions and aging weaken the immune system so it's less able to fight off the virus. Nearly two-thirds of Americans over 60 have high blood pressure.

Another concern that has been circulating, but was put to rest last month, were theories that the medications that are commonly prescribed to treat high blood pressure – ACE inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) – could make patients more vulnerable to contracting COVID-19, and more susceptible to severe illness if they did become infected.

But new research published in The New England Journal of Medicine last month found no risk linked to these medications.

**COVID Complications**

While pneumonia is the most common complication of the virus, it can also damage the cardiovascular system. That's why people with high blood pressure, heart disease, and heart failure are at risk.

High blood pressure damages arteries and reduces the flow of blood to your heart. That means your heart has to work harder to pump enough blood. Over time, this extra work can weaken your heart to the point where it can't pump as much oxygen-rich blood to your body.

Coronavirus can also damage the heart directly, which can be especially risky if your heart is already weakened by the effects of high blood pressure. The virus may cause inflammation of the heart muscle, which makes it harder for the heart to pump.

If you also have plaque buildup in your arteries, the virus may make those plaques more likely to break apart and cause a heart attack. Studies have shown that people with heart disease who get a respiratory illness like the flu or earlier types of coronavirus are at higher risk for a heart attack.

**What to Do?**

While everyone needs to take precautions to prevent coronavirus, people with high blood pressure and other health conditions need to be extra careful.

The best way to avoid getting sick is to stay home as much as you can. If you have to go out, wear a mask and keep at least 6 feet away from other people. And every time you come home, wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds. Also, clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces like cell phones, countertops and doorknobs.

The CDC also recommends that you have enough medicine on hand to treat high blood pressure and other health conditions. And stock up on over-the-counter medicines to treat a fever and other symptoms if you get sick.

While a coronavirus vaccine isn't available yet, you should stay up to date on your other important vaccines. The pneumococcal vaccines – Pnevna 13 and Pneumovax 23 – will prevent you from catching pneumonia on top of coronavirus. Also get a flu shot in September or early October. Its symptoms are easy to confuse with coronavirus, which could make it harder for doctors to diagnose you if you do get sick.

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.

**FAMILY MATTERS**

By Marc Garlett



**USING PASSIVE INCOME TO ESCAPE THE RAT RACE**

to put your energy into building up your assets. The more energy you invest, and the smarter you invest it, the faster you'll build assets.

Here are three proven ways to turn your energy into assets:

1. Work, work, work. Work as much as you can during your day job. Develop a side hustle. Use the money you make from your energy to pay off your debts (debts are keeping you down and beholden to other's dreams). Once your debts are gone, put money aside and build up your nest egg so you can invest in your legacy.

2. Write a book. If you have something of value to share with the world, put it in a book. It's easier to publish a book now than ever. While it does take a lot of energy to write and publish a successful book, the energy you expend results in more than just a one-time payoff. The asset created (your book) can provide an awesome stream of passive income. And if you can do it once, you can do it multiple times.

3. Start a business. Starting and building a business takes an enormous amount of energy. Unfortunately, many entrepreneurs never get past the start-up phase which means they've done little more than create an energy-sucking job for themselves. And while there are certainly worse things than working for yourself, if you can go beyond that and create an actual business, you'll have a valuable asset. Not only will your business provide passive income for you, it will serve more people than it could if it is reliant on you. Once your business outgrows you, it serves you and others so much better.

Once you have assets to invest, here are three proven ways to turn those assets into passive income generating machines:

1. Buy a business. You can skip the start-up phase and go right into running a business. What that really means, is that the business runs with or without you. You'll want processes and procedures in place to run the business and the right people in place to run the processes and procedures. Once a business can function independently of its owner, it begins providing passive income serving its customers

more deeply.

2. Invest in the market. This is the old compound return game and it works! For example, a 25-year-old who invests just \$100 per month in the market and receives an average 8% gain per year would grow their nest egg to over \$300,000 by the time they're 65. That equates to a six-fold gain on the \$48,000 they would have invested. And if they can invest \$300 a month, their nest egg would grow to nearly \$1 million by retirement.

3. Invest in income properties. This is my preferred method of generating passive income. It's completely changed the trajectory of my family's financial future and it can do it for yours, too. For example, let's say you buy a half-million-dollar rental property with \$100,000 down (financing the rest). If you've bought in the right area it won't take long for that property to appreciate by the \$100,000 you've got invested. And during that time, you're collecting rent, too. At just \$10,000 per year in cashflow (after your mortgage payment and expenses), you've made back your \$100,000 in 10 years. If you manage the property yourself, it's not truly passive income, but it can sure add up quick. And you can roll those profits into a management service or more properties.

Yes, I'm an estate planner. But even more than that, I'm a legacy builder, both for myself and for my clients. I firmly believe we all each in control of determining the legacy we'll leave. All it takes is putting a plan in place and moving forward with intention.

Dedicated to empowering your family, building your wealth and defining your legacy,

MARC

A local attorney and father, Marc Garlett is on a mission to help parents protect what they love most. His office is located at 55 Auburn Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Schedule an appointment to sit down and talk about ensuring a legacy of love and financial security for your family by calling 626.355.4000 or visit www.CalLaw.com for more information.

**SENIOR HAPPENINGS**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...June Birthdays\***



Joanne Thrane, Nellie Haynes, Dorothy McKay, Donna Doss, Mary Carney, Carol Handley, Marilyn McKernan, Pat Fujiwara, John Shier, Beth Smith-Kellock, Ann Disbrow, Joan Ellison, Anne Montgomery, Trini Ornelas, Martha Spriggs, Pat Starkey, Kathleen Coyne, Suzanne Decker, Jacque Persing, Jeanne Peterson and Grace Sanders

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

**SIERRA MADRE SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

The City of Sierra Madre is following these procedures to provide current communication in light of COVID-19 and keep the Senior Community and families informed of essential information and resources. City staff are monitoring email communication daily, and although employees are minimizing direct engagement and practicing social distancing in the community, please note that voice messages, emails, and social media responses are being addressed in the most efficient and timely manner. If at any moment additional information is needed, please contact City Hall Administrative Services at (626) 355-7135, Monday-Thursday from 7:30a – 5:30p, as they are taking messages and e-mailing the appropriate person.

For messages that may trickle in otherwise, please note our team is remotely checking voicemail daily at the Community Services Department, (626) 355-5278 x702.

Community Services Department will continue email communication with Senior residents and aging community members.

If you know of family members or neighbors who may benefit from accessing information electronically, and to receive the department's Seniors Newsletter via email but may not otherwise have been included on an email group list, please send your request with email address to the following team members:

Lawren Heinz Lheinz@cityofsierramadre.com and Clarissa Lowe Clowe@cityofsierramadre.com.

Community Services Department will continue Electronic Seniors Newsletter on a weekly-basis distribution.

Community Services Department will continue with mail drop-off of newsletters at the Sierra Madre U.S. Post Office Box (unless otherwise advised).

City Social Media will continue via Facebook as well as Instagram, and information sharing will include updates as details becomes available.

**Mater Dolorosa - Sierra Madre Meal Pick-Up Program** provides seal-packaged frozen meals, 5-person every Thursday, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. at Hart Park House Senior Center 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Donations are accepted. Call (626) 355-5278; x702 or 704.

**YWCA Intervale Meal Program** - Effective Wednesday, April 1, 2020

YWCA has transitioned their distribution of take home meals at the Sierra Madre Hart Park House Senior Center to a home-delivery meal program. Participants previously reserved for meal pick-up as of Wednesday, 3/25/20 were informed that they would begin to have their meals delivered to their homes, beginning Wednesday, April 1, 2020 until further notice.

For any additional participants calling in that are at a high risk and need meals delivered to, please provide us their name, date of birth (they must be 60+), address and phone number and Community Services Department will forward this information to our County Contact.

**Food Banks Support: Seniors & Families:**

If someone is outside of our local area and in need of a food bank, they can find one nearest them by going to [www.lafoodbank.org](http://www.lafoodbank.org) and typing in their zip code; or call from the list here:

**First Church of the Nazarene-Pasadena** 3700 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. 626-351-9631  
Wednesday 10:30 am-12 pm

**Pasadena Senior Center** 85 E. Holly St. Pasadena 626-685-6732

**Foothill Unity Center** 415 W. Chestnut Ave. Monrovia 626-358-3486 Monday 1 pm-3:30 pm, Wednesday & Friday 9 am-11:30 am

**Lifeline Community Services & Economic Development** 2556 N. Lake Ave Altadena 626-797-3585 2nd and 4th Wednesday 12 pm-2 pm & 8:15 pm-9 pm

**Morning Star Outreach Ministry** 1416 N. Mentor Ave Pasadena 626-794-4875  
2nd & 4th Saturday 11 am-1

**OUT TO PASTOR**

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder



**THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT A LAZY SUMMER AFTERNOON**

The past week was an unusually quiet week around the parsonage. It enabled me to do some-thing that I have wanted to do all summer long. Nothing, I am not bragging or anything, but I can do nothing right up there with the best of them.

The week, as all weeks do, started on Monday. For me, there is always something about a Monday morning. And this Monday morning was going to set the tone for the rest of the week.

It all began when the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage made one of her announcements. I live for these announcements because I know it will affect my whole week.

"Our daughter and I," she said rather matter-of-factly, "will be going out of town for the entire day on Thursday."

This came as a shock to me, for I had not been forewarned. And you know what they say about being forewarned. However, I'm not one to look a gift horse in the mouth. I will take what I can take when I can take it.

Apparently, our daughter was going to take her daughter to visit friends for an entire week, and she wanted my wife to go along to keep her company. Trying to hide my delight in the whole matter, I soberly said, "Is there anything I can do for you for your trip?"

Evidently, my offer was not heard because the next words out of my wife's mouth were, "Now, here's the list I made for you while I'm away. Make sure you do everything on that list."

I graciously accepted "The List" and glanced at it casually. If I did everything on that list, she would have to be gone for a month. I smiled as I folded "The List" and tucked it into my shirt pocket.

This is what I love about my Beloved. She is always thinking of me. Even when she is planning to be away, she takes the time to plan my day. I could not ask for a better helpmeet in all the wide world. I promised her that I would take special care of "The List" while she was away for the day. Fortunately for me, I did not define what I meant by "special care." After being married as long as I have, there are certain things not appropriate to divulge to your Better Half.

For the rest of the week, she was busy making her plans, and I, for my part, stayed out of her way as much as possible. My motto being, never interrupt somebody who is busy about his or her business.

Finally, the day arrived. Early that morning, the three of them – grandmother, mother, and daughter – loaded up the car and began their journey. I stood in the doorway and waved until I could

no longer see the car, and then I waved for three more minutes just to make sure the job was done. After I shut the door, I sighed very deeply, toddled over to my easy chair with a nice hot cup of coffee, and began my day's activities. Oh sure, I read over "The List" several times and then folded it neatly up and put it back in my shirt pocket. As I patted my shirt pocket, I said to myself, "I plan to take special care of this list."

Knowing all the things I was supposed to do as outlined in "The List," I decided to do something not on that list. After all, I was now captain of my ship, and I decided to live rather dangerously for the day.

After pouring myself another hot cup of coffee, I ventured out onto the patio, sat down to enjoy the morning and watched the birds play in the backyard. This was living. Nobody could ever accuse me of being afraid of work because I had a whole list of work that needed to be done and absolutely did nothing about it. It gave me a real sense of ownership. Right at this moment, I owned the moment.

I know what you are thinking right now. You're thinking, what are you going to do when your wife comes home? That is the difference between the average person and Yours Truly. I am living in the moment. Whatever happens later on has no bearing whatsoever upon my enjoyment of the moment. Indeed, I may get into some complicated trouble; however, it is a small price to pay for enjoying my moment.

Not many people come to the place where they can enjoy their moment in the sun. Some people have grandiose ideas of life to such an extent that they work all their life and never achieve it. Some people work very hard all their life so that they can come to the place where they can do nothing. I am miles ahead of the ordinary citizen. I find ways in which to enjoy doing nothing wherever I can find it. I purposefully look for those moments and grab them when I can.

Even Jesus took time to rest. "And he [Jesus] said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat" (Mark 6:31).

I am reminded of another old Pennsylvania Dutch saying, "The hurrier I go the behinder I get." Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail [jamesnyder2@att.net](mailto:jamesnyder2@att.net). The church web site is [www.whatafellowship.com](http://www.whatafellowship.com).



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**MOUNTAIN VIEWS NEWS**

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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.

**STUART TOLCHIN**



**LOOK AROUND FOR A MOMENT**

It ain't just the Black People protesting!

For the first time in my lifetime it is all ages, genders, races, religions, and anyone else I may have left out all walking the streets protesting. Even aged ones who can't walk very far are standing in place at Dodger Stadium holding signs that express deep dissatisfaction. I know these protests, which, as of today have lasted fifteen days, were ignited by the cell-phone video tape taken by a seventeen year old female observer of Police conduct. The conduct that was videotaped and broadcasted to all of us showed a smug nonchalant

Police Officer holding his knee upon a prone non-moving African American Man for eight minutes and forty six seconds. Observing and assisting in what amounted to a public execution of the man, George Floyd, were three other police officers.

The first question we all had was something like "What had the man done?" Before even knowing the answer anyone who saw the tape experienced a kind of revulsion. Was there any crime so horrible that it justified such action?

Later we learned that the executed man was suspected (suspected) of using a counterfeit twenty dollar bill to purchase items at a neighborhood liquor store where he frequently shopped. I have not heard anything further as to whether a counterfeit bill was actually used but who cares now?

The video has led to worldwide protests which even today seem to focus on the need to restrain police brutality. There is a demand for police reforms that will take place, some of which might actually take place; but I think that the demonstrations and the outrage were about something much more basic than this one issue, important as it may be.

I believe the demonstrations are cries for help from populations that are dissatisfied with their lives and really don't know why. Sure the outrageous, unbelievable conduct by the American President, combined with the restrictions and fears connected to the Coronavirus, and the confusion as to the proper way to behave, and the uncertainty as to the future all probably have something to do with this extraordinary explosion of dissatisfaction.

Some of us have been prevented from even meeting with our families and some of us have been stuck at home trying to explain to our kids stuff that we don't understand ourselves.

More than half the marriages break up, the number of suicides keep increasing, many people are unemployed but even those with jobs report being unhappy with their work and see no future prospects.

Maybe this communal venting of dissatisfaction will allow us all to realize that we are in this mess together and really our individual problems are no worse than anybody else's.

Sure other people may have more money but the virus and the universal uncertainty allows us all to realize that money isn't everything and to be thankful that in this very moment we are still alive.

Not a bad feeling afterall..

**DICK POLMAN**



**'DEFUND THE POLICE' A SLOGAN RIPE FOR REPUBLICAN EXPLOITATION**

The good news for America is that Donald Trump is crashing his presidency the same way he bankrupted casinos, with recent polls showing him significantly trailing Joe Biden. His own advisers reportedly say that his internal numbers are "brutal."

The bad news for America – potentially – is that Trump may have found a life preserver to which he can cling, and perhaps slow his risk of being swept away.

Here's what Trump said the other day in Maine: "(Protestors) are saying 'defund the police'. Defund. Think of it. When I saw it, I said, 'What are you talking about?' 'They say, 'We don't want to have any police.' You don't want any police?'"

"Defund the police" – formerly a cri de coeur in certain activist and academic circles; now painted on a street near the White House – is a bold slogan that's potential grist for Trumpist demagoguery. Perhaps Trump's efforts will ultimately fail, given his horrific performance in office, but Biden and the Democrats may need to be careful nonetheless, lest they be tarred as "soft on crime" – one of the GOP's more durable smear tactics.

When lawmakers start talking about "defunding" a program, it generally means reducing the program's money to zero. But "defund the police" is not about magically abolishing all police. As Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza said Sunday on Meet the Press, it's about shifting priorities: "When we talk about defunding the police, what we're saying is, invest in the resources that our communities need...What we do need is increased funding for housing, we need increased funding for education, we need increased funding for the quality-of-life communities that are over-policed and over-surveilled."

But fortunately for Trump and his enablers, a three-word slogan can be twisted and caricatured and exaggerated and distorted all kinds of ways, for the purpose of freaking people out. Hence this Trump tweet, posted Sunday: "Sleepy Joe Biden and the Radical Left Democrats want to 'DEFUND THE POLICE.' I want great and well paid LAW ENFORCEMENT. I want LAW & ORDER!" And this one: "Not only will Sleepy Joe Biden DEFUND THE POLICE, but he will DEFUND OUR MILITARY!"

Naturally, Trump is lying – Biden is opposed to defunding the police and the military – but Trump may have some room to maneuver. He can demand that Biden denounce the slogan and endorse our men and women in blue. If Biden does denounce the slogan, maybe he'd alienate progressives in his ranks. Alternatively, if he stands with the activists, maybe he'd tick off the majority of Americans – 71 percent – who support their local police departments.

As a slogan, "defund the police" is ripe for right-wing political mischief. Even though it's generally about shifting some money from police (especially the purchase of military hardware) to a community's basic human needs, Trump and his enablers will say it's all about abolishing the police. Monday on MSNBC, the Rev. Al Sharpton admitted that "the slogan may be misleading without interpretation."

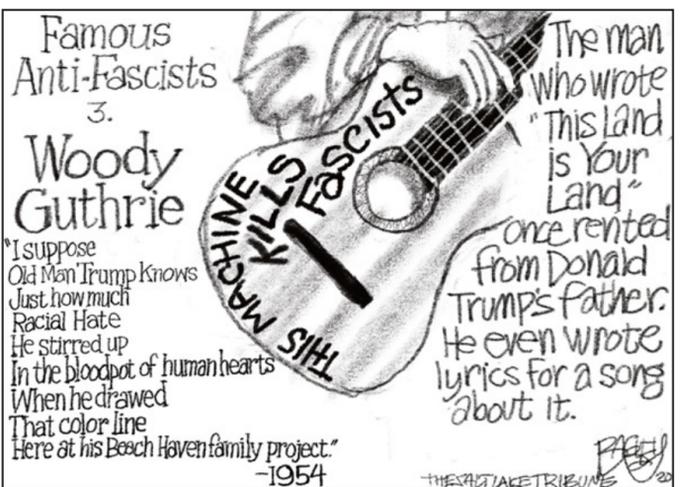
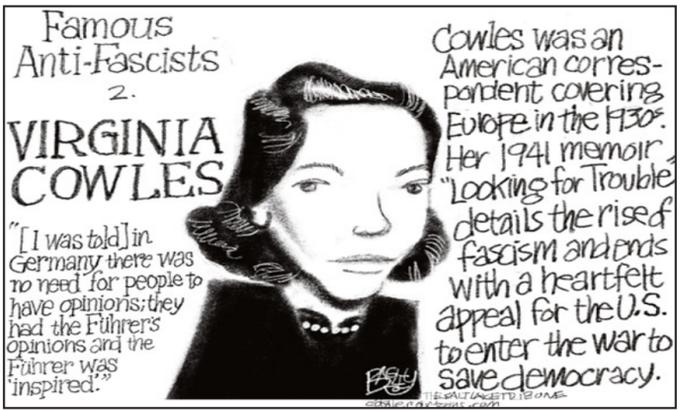
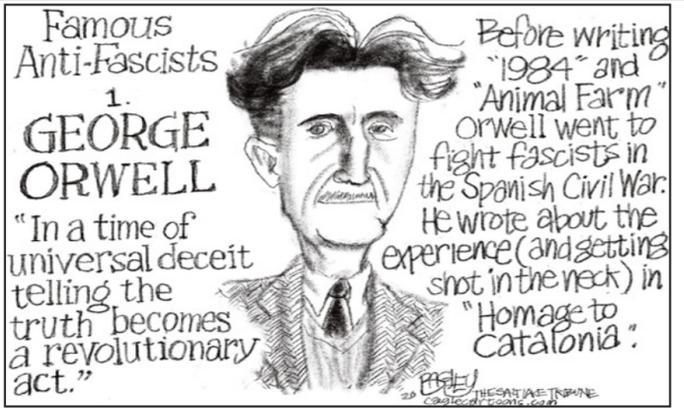
Which means that, politically speaking, is not a good slogan. Not if you have to keep explaining it.

But here's a good attempt to explain it, courtesy of Georgetown University law professor (and police reform expert) Christy Lopez:

"For most proponents, 'defunding the police' does not mean zeroing out budgets for public safety, and police abolition does not mean that police will disappear overnight – or perhaps ever. Defunding the police means shrinking the scope of police responsibilities and shifting most of what government does to keep us safe to entities that are better equipped to meet that need. It means investing more in mental-health care and housing, and expanding the use of community mediation and violence interruption programs...It means recognizing that criminalizing addiction and poverty, making 10 million arrests per year and mass incarceration have not provided the public safety we want and never will."

In all likelihood, Biden will stay broadly within those parameters. At this point – amidst a pandemic, an economic depression, and widespread civic unrest – the burden is on a failed, lawless president to leverage "law and order" to his benefit. And that's the good news.

Dick Polman, a veteran national political columnist based in Philadelphia and a Writer in Residence at the University of Pennsylvania, writes at DickPolman.net. Email him at dickpolman7@gmail.com



**LILLY KOFLER**

**ONE POSITIVE SIDE EFFECT OF THE CORONAVIRUS**

If you noticed a lot more cash parked in your checking account lately, you're not alone.

Americans haven't been saving this much money since the Great Depression, and antiquated Depression-era values such as thrift and duty are making a comeback. But embracing those virtues doesn't mean Americans have become more virtuous. The pandemic and resulting economic catastrophe have upended the how we respond certain behavioral cues.

In these unprecedented times, we're behaving quite predictably.

The scale of this behavioral change is staggering. Before COVID-19, Americans ranked 19th in the world in retirement security. The personal savings rate had been inching up from 3.7% in 2007 to an average 8.2% in the first seven months of 2019 – but now it's blown up: 12.7% in March and 33% in April, nearly doubling the previous record since they started asking the question in 1960.

When asked to explain this behavioral shift, most analysts blame shuttered retail outlets and vague credit fear for finally getting Americans to save, but the truth is that Americans aren't making rational decisions even when making good decisions. We're all simply responding differently to stimuli because the context in which we make decisions has changed.

Take the principle of time preference, for example, which plays a role in how one perceives an immediate or future benefit from saving money. Before, saving was for something in the future – retirement, travel, or uncertain calamities. Now, saving is for a clear and present economic danger as a quarter of all American workers have filed for unemployment.

Our tendency to forget future benefits in favor of the here and now is something we call present bias. Present bias is the main reason Americans ran up huge credit card bills and failed to save for rainy days. We still have a bias for the present, but the incentives have flipped. Mind you, at 0% interest no one is saving for the future. COVID-19's 2% mortality rate and the 14.7% unemployment rate incentivize saving for what might happen later today.

Loss aversion is another trick our brains play on us. We are more likely to act to avoid losses than we are to realize wins, even when the odds are better for a win and a loss wouldn't hurt that bad. Before, loss aversion explained a lot of big bar tabs and splurging while on vacations. We expected to have good times and were willing to spend more so our experiences could meet those expectations. Now, the equation for loss aversion have dramatically shifted in the other direction as we're focused on avoiding losing much more tangible things: jobs, housing, basic financial viability, even our lives.

No one can say for certain whether Americans will continue to save money when this is all over, partly because no one can say for certain when this is all over. How long we wait for a vaccine and whether we face successive waves of infections until then will likely determine whether the society that survives will return to rewarding displays of conspicuous consumption.

In today's world, we admire essential workers nearly as much as we value essential products themselves. Will we recreate the Roaring '20s if the economy comes roaring back?

Right now, the best thing Americans can do to protect their financial security is to hoard money. Luckily, the behavioral cues incentivize optimal personal outcomes amid suboptimal public turmoil.

With so little to celebrate these days, we should take a moment to at least acknowledge this: It might have taken a deadly pandemic and economic cataclysm, but Americans are finally saving money.

Lilly Kofler is the Vice President of Behavioral Science and is the U.S. lead of Hill+Knowlton Strategies Behavioral Science Unit.



We hope that you and your families are healthy. It is in times like these that demand that we practice self-care when it comes to our mental health, stress, and anxiety levels. Our habits of mind are so very important. We live in an age of "critical thinking," a centerpiece of reason which is vital to human progress and intellectual life.

However, through this almost-relentless consideration of what is 'wrong' and needs improvement, the constructive impulse this may marshal can easily fall over into complaint and despair. We do this to ourselves, perhaps, most frequently of all.

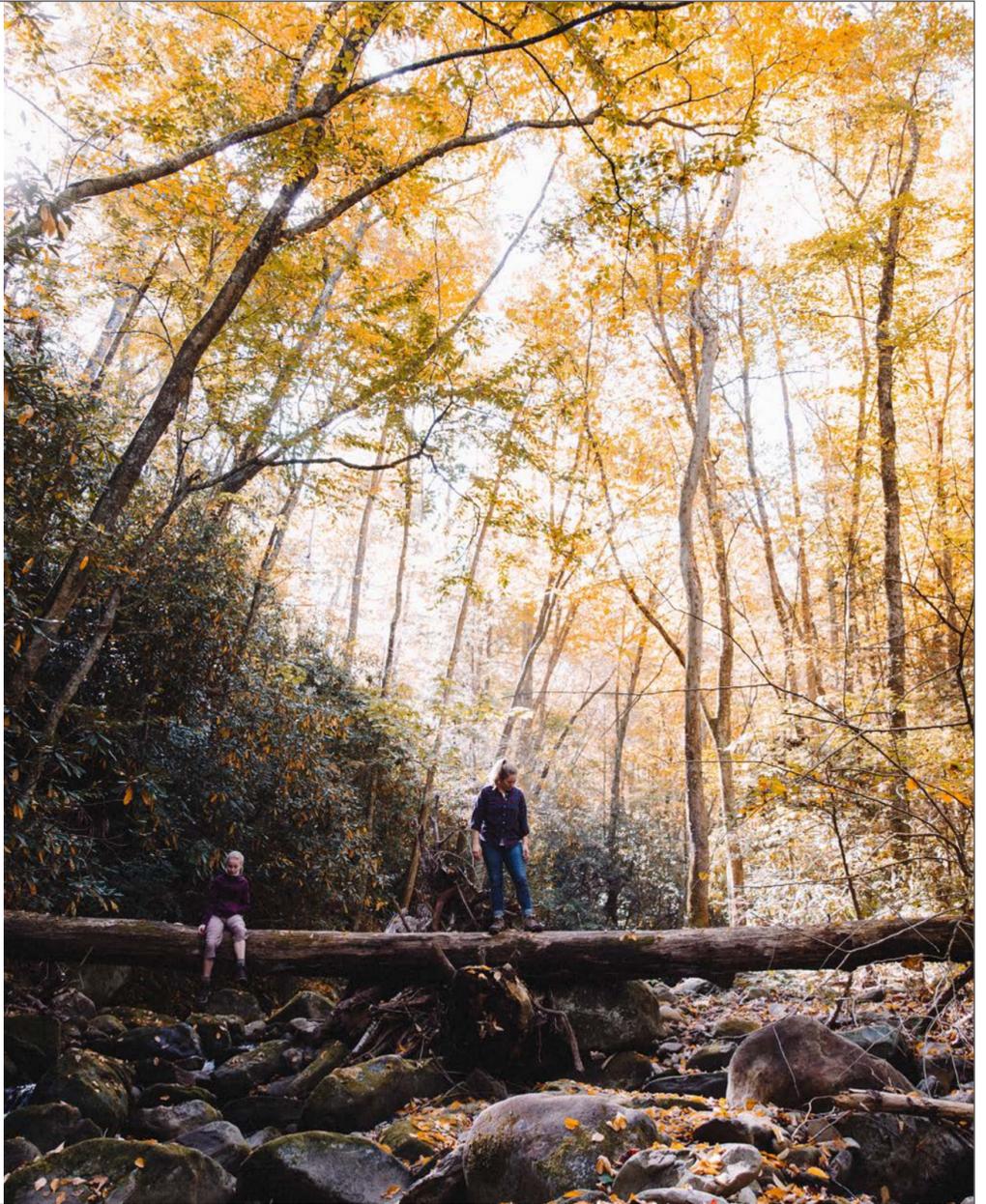
But if we can use this opportunity to see all that is wonderful in this life; like our relationships, our non-isolation, and our tremendous human resilience, we will come through this epidemic healthier and stronger than we entered it.

**In the midst of the market uncertainty, please remember that we are here to guide you through your Real Estate needs.**



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