

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Duarte

Monrovia

Pasadena

Altadena

South Pasadena

San Marino

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020

VOLUME 14 NO. 50

deasy **penner** podley

home as art.®

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDY WEBB-MARTIN



2020 RECIPIENT OF THE SIERRA MADRE GEORGE MAURER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Judy is the first person to receive every civic award bestowed upon an individual for community service in Sierra Madre.

Her decades of devotion, passion and leadership have inspired countless others.

Thank you, Judy for all you do!

THE WEBB-MARTIN GROUP

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SIERRA MADRE ZOOMS

Without Question COVID-19 Has Changed The Way We All Do Things. However in Sierra Madre, Not Even A Pandemic Can Deter The City From Moving Forward.

A GRATEFUL CITIZENRY SAYS THANKS AND FAREWELL TO FORMER MAYORS CAPOCCIA AND HARABEDIAN AND WELCOMES NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS



Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi above
Departing Councilmembers Harabedian and Capoccia below

Sierra Madre without question is an 'All American City'. In the backdrop of the chaos which continues in Washington, this quiet village is a shining example of how a democracy works. As Councilman and Former Mayor Gene Goss said, Sierra Madre is "a model for other cities". Councilmembers John Capoccia and John Harabedian, who served on the council since 2012 and who both have served as Mayor, decided not to run for re-election in 2020. Tuesday's meeting was their last official act as part of Sierra Madre's elected leaders.



They received Proclamations from Assemblyman Chris Holden and Congresswoman Judy Chu as well as a video message from State Senator Anthony Portantino. LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger attended the Zoom meeting to not only thank them for their service but also to swear in the new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. Luther Tsino-glou, President of the Sierra Madre Chamber also made presentations to all, including outgoing City Clerk Sue Spears.

Prior to their departure, the entire council narrated a powerpoint presentation that was an overview of all the City Council's accomplishments since the last election. The presentation was an excellent review for the new councilmembers and a 'must see' for residents. You can view it by going to <http://www.foothillsmedia.org/sierramadre#sierramadre1>

Elected by the citizens on November 3rd to fill the vacancies for the four year terms were Kelly Kriebbs and Robert Parkhurst. Also elected was Edward Garcia to fill the unexpired term of former Mayor Denise Delmar and Michael Amerio who ran unopposed and was re-elected as City Treasurer.

The newly elected officials were sworn in by the outgoing City Clerk Sue Spears.

During the election, residents also voted to change the office of the City Clerk to an appointed position. Until a new city clerk is appointed by the City Manager, Assistant City Clerk Laura Aguilar will serve as the Interim Clerk.

Mrs. Spears last official acts were to swear in the newly elected officials, and to preside over the election by the new council leadership. She was greatly praised for her professionalism in handling her position.

The new council elected Rachelle Arizmendi as Mayor and Gene Goss as Mayor Pro Tem who were sworn in by Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

Voter apathy was definitely not an issue in Sierra Madre. According to Asst. City Clerk Laura Aguilar the LA County Registrar of voters reported 88.2% of registered Sierra Madre voters exercised their rights. LA County only had 75.98% registered voter participation.

MVNews

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FREE ESTIMATES

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNIZED FOR EFFORTS DURING 2020 AT VIRTUAL DINNER EVENT

On Thursday, the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce and the City of Sierra Madre held its' annual Honors Dinner recognizing volunteers and employees who were instrumental during 2020 at a celebratory virtual event.

Normally, there is an gathering where everyone can socialize and have face to face contact with the awardees. This year, more than 114 attended virtually. To help local restaurants everyone who signed up was treated to take out dinners at nine participating local eateries. And, in the spirit of Sierra Madre, many attendees donned purple attire the official color of the town before they zoomed in.

Awardees were nominated by the community and/or their employer for demonstrating extraordinary resolve in helping sustain the City of Sierra Madre, its' residents and businesses during the current pandemic. Recognized for their efforts were:

EXEMPLARY EMPLOYEE LEILA REGAN who as a city staffer at the Library went above and beyond her paid duties to help the citizens of Sierra Madre.



Leila Regan

LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD CHRIS CIMINO, Public Works Director: This was the first time this recognition was given. City Manager Gabe Engeland also announced that this award will be called in the future The Chris Cimino Lifetime Service Award

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR TEVIN VOONG, Communications Coordinator



Tevin Voong

WISTARIA AWARD which recognizes a Community Partnership that assists with providing community wide programs and service was granted to **SIERRA MADRE THRIVES** which was started by business owners and friends in Sierra Madre to support the businesses of SM during the Pandemic; provide a weekly dinner free to those that need it in Sierra Madre and organize volunteers to help our neighbors. The award was accepted by Tom Denison who announced that with the increased spread of the virus, the group was going to 'reactivate'. For more information go to: <https://www.smthrives.com/>

THE GEORGE MAURER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD for a person/entity whose lifetime of service embodies the spirit of volunteerism was presented by George's daughter (George turned 98 earlier this year), Mikki Poretta to Kiwanis President and long time community volunteer and business person, **JUDY WEBB-MARTIN**.

THE 2020 BUSINESSES OF THE YEAR for an outstanding business existing in Sierra Madre has been an active supporter of the community was granted to two entities which cross generations in ownership but with a shared commitment to Sierra Madre: **DON TAYLOR AT TAYLOR'S OL' FASH-**



Wilma and Don Taylor

IONED MARKET who has been serving the area for 54 years (51 of them in Sierra Madre) and **MADISON HOPKINS, AT FIT BAR SUPER FOOD CAFE.** Madison, who is a 3rd generation Sierra Madiran, opened her cafe in 2019 and was immediately challenged with trying to exist during the Pandemic. She has not only kept the doors open serving the community but has availed her business to assist in supporting other charitable organizations and families needing assistance as a result of the current crisis.

This year, two persons were awarded the **2020 CITIZENS OF THE YEAR** which is for residents who have benefited the city during 2020 as a volunteer. The Awards this year also crossed generations. They were awarded to **ROBERT GJERDE** who created **SIERRA MADRE MAJOR EVENTS** Facebook Page and monitored it 24/7 with valuable information on the Pandemic, the LA County Response and the Bobcat fire. He did this while also keeping his commitments to his other volunteer endeavors such as CERT.

MEGHAN MALOOLY, THE FOUNDER OF SIERRA MADRE HELPING HAND was also bestowed with the Citizen of the Year Award. The effort was created by Meghan through the generosity of neighbors to help find families that are in need of financial assistance for buying groceries and other essential items.

To view the entire Awards Show, go to: <https://bit.ly/HonorsDinnerCSM>



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ANIMAL HOSPITAL





*Who Has The Best
Holiday
Decorations? Is
It You?
Or Your Neighbor?*

**THE MOUNTAIN VIEWS NEWS & THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
want to know!**

The Mountain Views News is reviving their Best Holiday Decorations contest this year in Sierra Madre and the City of Sierra Madre is joining with us. So, now is the time to go all out with your holiday decorations.

Our Photo Santa will be driving around town looking for the the best of the best! PLUS.....we will give you the chance to vote for the People's Choice!



**Decorations must be completed by
Saturday, December 19, 2020.**

**NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED! PHOTO SANTA
WILL DRIVE UP AND DOWN EVERY STREET IN
SIERRA MADRE LOOKING FOR THE BEST!**

**VOTE FOR THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE! Drive around town and tell
us what address you think is the best!**

Voting will begin on December 19th through December 24th.

**Winners will be featured in the Special Holiday Edition on
December 26, 2020.**

Where Your Community News Come First

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre Arcadia Duarte Monrovia Pasadena Altadena South Pasadena San Marino



**HELP SAVE OUR LOCAL
RESTAURANTS**

**THE COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE
IN OUR VIRTUAL PRESENTATION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH AT 8:00AM**

*Take out
&
delivery
ONLY*



MEET OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

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CORFU



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To participate in our meeting send an email requesting the ZOOM link to
sierra.swish@gmail.com



The Sierra Madre Rotary Club Toy Drive!
Contribute a new unwrapped toy for ages 1 to 18 to these local retailers.
Your gift benefits the Hathaway-Sycamores Home in Pasadena.

• Best Buy Drugs • Syndicate • Taylor's Market
• Arnold's Hardware • The Bottle Shop

Your Donation Means Everything to a Child!



Rotary
Club of Sierra Madre



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**NEW SPECIALS FROM
THE VAULT DAILY**

The Kensington Sierra Madre - An Assisted Living Residence
245 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 626-355-5700
JOIN US FOR OUR DECEMBER EVENTS

- 08** DEMENTIA COMMUNICATION SKILLS "A GLIMPSE INTO THE POSITIVE APPROACH TO CARE" PRESENTED BY LEANDRA SIMS, OUR MEMORY CARE DIRECTOR AND PAC CERTIFIED TRAINER
- 10** MANAGING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS PRESENTED BY HEALTHPRO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO LIVE WITH AND TREAT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
- 14** VIRTUAL SESSION- CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP WITH LISA BRICKER THE KENSINGTON ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP
- 17** TIPS FOR MANAGING YOUR LOVED ONE'S CARE JOIN US TO LEARN HOW TO BE CONNECTED, PREPARED, AND ORGANIZED WHEN MANAGING CARE GROUP
- 28** VIRTUAL SESSION- CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP WITH LISA BRICKER THE KENSINGTON ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP MANAGING CARE GROUP

The Four Seasons Tea Room

CHRISTMAS TEA
Twenty-Eight Dollars
(TAKE-OUT ONLY)

OUR HOUSE SALAD
Mixed Greens, Toasted Almonds, Mandarin Oranges & Crumbled Blue Cheese
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FOUR TEA SANDWICHES
Cranberry Tarragon Chicken Salad on a Petite Croissant
Cucumber w/ Dill Cream
Egg Salad w/ Olive Tapenade
Pumpkin Bread w/ Cream Cheese

FRESHLY BAKED SCONE
With Our House Devon Cream and Raspberry Jam

CHOICE OF DESSERT:
Petite Chocolate Truffle Cheesecake
or
Petite Boston Cream Pie

Add a slice of **Egg Nog Mousse Cake** or
Chocolate Mousse Cake to your order for 6.75

CHOICE OF TEA:
(Our Loose Leaf Tea, bagged to be brewed at home)

BLACK TEA:
Signature House Blend: Darjeeling & Assam ★ French Caramel Crème Brûlée ★ Autumn Leaf
Hazelnut Chai ★ Cherry Cinnamon ★ Blueberry Vanilla ★ Black Currant ★ Hawaiian Orchid
Hazelnut Vanilla Chai ★ Masala Chai ★ Pumpkin Muffin ★ Pear & Pomegranate
Victorian Rose ★ Lavender Earl Grey ★ Blue Lady

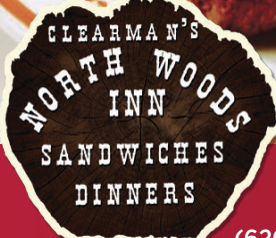
HERBAL TEA:
Signature House Blend: Hibiscus ★ Caribbean Sunset ★ Rose Petal ★ Berry Hibiscus

GREEN TEA:
Sencha ★ Peppermint ★ Peach & Cherry

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City of Sierra Madre

SUMMARY NOTICE

From: The City of Sierra Madre
 Subject: Parking Code Update - Ordinance 1432
 Applicant: City of Sierra Madre
 Project Location: Properties in the City of Sierra Madre,
 County of Los Angeles, State of California

On December 8, 2020, the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre introduced for second reading Ordinance 1432, recommending adoption of Municipal Code Text Amendment 20-04 (MCTA 20-04).

The purpose of MCTA 20-04 is to amend Chapter 17.08 (Definitions), Section 17.20.015 (Definitions), and Chapter 17.68 (Parking). The amendments replace the list of specific uses and corresponding parking requirements with requirements for residential and non-residential uses; reduces the total number of required parking spaces for non-residential uses; allows for shared parking arrangements involving separate properties in the commercial zone; updates standards for development of parking facilities, provides relief from required parking in connection with the reuse of existing structures and residential additions.

This summary is published pursuant to Government Code Section 36933(c)(1) and a full and complete certified copy of the text of Ordinance is available at the Sierra Madre City Manager's Office located at City of Sierra Madre City Hall, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA. Ordinance 1432 becomes effective on January 8, 2020. For further information on this subject, please contact the Planning and Community Preservation Department at (626) 355-7138.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The subject ordinance is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15301, of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations and is also exempt from review because it does not meet the definition of a project under CEQA Guidelines sections 15061, subdivision (b)(3), and section 15378, subdivision (a) and subdivision (b)(5). The proposed changes to Chapter 17.68 have no potential for resulting in physical changes to the environment because the amendments are intended to establish standards to ensure the use, activity, and operations of residential and non-residential uses provide adequate parking facilities for the intended use. Any particular proposed project will be required to undergo the City's entitlement process and appropriate review under CEQA.

APPEAL: If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the City Council in court, one may be limited to raising the issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or before, the scheduled public hearing. For further information on this subject, please contact the Planning and Community Preservation Department at (626) 355-7138.

WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

"I seen a peanut stand, heard a rubber band
 I seen a needle that winked its eye
 But I think I've seen about ev'rything
 When I see an elephant fly.
 I said when I see an elephant fly!
 I seen a front porch swing, heard a diamond ring
 I seen a polka-dot railroad tie
 But I think I've seen about ev'rything,
 When I see an elephant fly!"
 (Ned Washington, Oliver Wallace)

Many of you...well, some of you out there might be old enough to remember the 1941 Disney animated feature, *Dumbo*, a great movie featuring a baby elephant with ears like the wings on a Stealth Bomber. He realizes with the help of his mouse friend, Timothy, that these ears enable him to fly. Eventually, he runs into a bunch of crows that sing the above song...that will now be stuck in my mind for days.

OK, you're saying, well, that's special, but what's it got to do with anything? Well, friends and neighbors, I thought I'd seen just about everything until last week when Christmas decorated dinosaurs were seen frolicking and cavorting through town. These three were having the best time imaginable and were spotted by a number of folks, even though their dance through town was on the late side. Their picture was snapped and here it is. Yes, indeed, I think I've seen about everything when I see dinosaurs dancing through Sierra Madre. We do have a very special town, don't we!



The Anonymousauruses

"As we struggle with shopping lists, to do lists and invitations, plus our own unreal expectations for all we expect ourselves to do, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same." Donald E. Westlake

One of my favorite authors, Michelle Griep, who describes herself as, "an author, blogger, and occasional super-hero when her cape is clean," at one time published a daily blog, *Writer Off the Leash*. Here's what she shared a while back and it's so good I want to pass it along, with many thanks for this good advice, to all of you dear friends and neighbors. In this time of pandemic where none of us are having much fun, removing a little stress from your life can't hurt a bit!

FIVE WAYS TO SLAY HOLIDAY STRESS

Change Your Perspective

Sometimes all that needs to be slain is your mindset. This season take a good, hard look at all that you're doing and then question everything. You could be stressing yourself out because of expectations and values that aren't really yours. Examine what your core beliefs are and live those out, not some totally imaginary Hallmark Christmas movie ideals.

LetGo

Who says you need to do it all? Unless you're Martha Stewart, you don't have to. Choose 1 item to cut from your must-get-done-before-Christmas list and just say no. I'm not talking simply crossing it off your list. I'm saying cut it out and throw it away for good. Maybe you'll decide not to do cards anymore or give up baking 6 different kinds of cookies. Whatever. The point is to stop doing 1 activity.

Plan Ahead

Obviously you're not going to cut everything from your holiday season. Decide on what you'll keep (remember, you're being proactive by choosing what you will keep and what you won't) then whip out your calendar and plan those things into your schedule. If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. Putting things off until the last minute causes undue anxiety. As none of us are doing much socializing currently, this one won't be too difficult. Decorating for Christmas inside and out seems to be one of the things that's at the top of just about everybody's list so go ahead and enjoy that.

Shop Online

Books make great gifts and are just a click away. So is just about everything you can imagine. You'll avoid the crowds and save time driving to and from the store. And save unnecessary contact, too. Yeah, you might end up paying for shipping but in the long run if it saves you time and keeps you out of stores, it's totally worth it. Unless, of course, you happen to be an Amazon.com Prime customer, then you pay no shipping ever! Woo hoo!

Say No

This one is the hardest of all because you want to have fun as much as the next guy, right? Or your heart is big and you want to help everyone who has a need. Or you just plain old don't want others to think badly of you. Well, dear friend, in order to lessen your stress you just might need to start saying no. And if you do, guess what? You'll find that your "yes's" have a whole new meaning. Life is short.

Live intentionally, whether it's Christmas or not.

There now, don't you feel better? Take a breath, or two or three, drive 'round town and enjoy everyone's lights and decorations and remember this precious truth: Jesus is the reason for the season! Go to a virtual Christmas concert. Watch one of the Christmas movies on the Hallmark channel. Tell someone you love them. And smile. A lot! And wear your mask, and wash your hands, and stay safe and pray for our Nation to come out of this difficult season.

Speaking of difficult seasons, last Monday, December 7th was Pearl Harbor Day, observed annually to remember and honor the 2,403 Americans who were killed in the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, which led to the United States declaring war on Japan the next day and thus entering World War II. "A date that will live in infamy."

I'm hoping all your Christmas memories this year are merry and bright, and all the gifts you receive are exactly what you wanted and all the gifts you give are exactly what they wanted, too. And may dinosaurs dance through Kersting Court leaving laughter in their wake.

"Christmas, it's almost here! My favorite, favorite time of year!"

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis
 Christmas is just a few short weeks away and my books:
 "A Tablespoon of Love, A Tablespoon of Laughter" and
 "Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope"

Would be really nice gifts for everyone you know.

You can find them on Amazon.com

"Star of Wonder" a delightful Christmas Kindle story is there, too.

If you'd like a little preview, take a look at: <https://youtu.be/Ka1KYrONrd0>

PLEASE STAY SAFE!
SOCIALLY DISTANCE!
WEAR A MASK!

CALIFORNIA'S LIMITED STAY AT HOME ORDER

- All non-essential activities stop from 10PM-5AM
- Applies to all counties in purple tier
- Effective 11/21/2020 - 12/21/2020
- Activities from 10pm-5AM are often non-essential or gatherings that spread COVID-19.
- Reducing movement & mixing of households protects essential workers and dramatically slows spread, hospitalizations, and deaths.

covid19.ca.gov

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- C**onfined spaces
- C**lose contact

with people outside your household

covid19.lacounty.gov

Bethany Church of Sierra Madre

Looking for hope and inspiration during lockdown?
 Come join us on YouTube!
 Sundays at 10 a.m.

(Search on YouTube for *Bethany Church of Sierra Madre*)

626-355-1403
www.bethanychurchsm.org
<https://www.facebook.com/BethanyCSM>

Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 50s
Mon:	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 50s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 50s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 50s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 50s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 50s

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 will 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 by 6:00PM. on the day of the meeting. Emails will be acknowledged at the Council meeting and filed into public record.

Any member of the public may also call into the meeting to provide their comments. To provide public comment by telephone, please call in when your topic of interest is being discussed by the City Council and provide your name and the agenda item number. You will be placed in the cue until the Mayor opens up the topic for public comment.

To participate in public comment, please call:
Phone Number: (669) 900-9128
Meeting ID: 626-232-0232
Password: 232242

The meeting will be streamed live on the City's website at 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 or by telephone at (626) 355-7135.

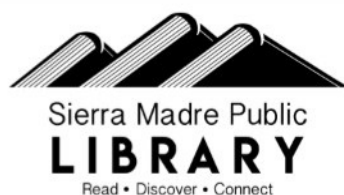
1630 AM EMERGENCY RADIO & Free on-air publicity for local events

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.



This week at the
Sierra Madre
Public Library

December 14—December 19

Monday

Storytime to Go—View online; kits available outside the Library after 9:00am

Story Adventure at Memorial Park—A new story will be available all week!

The Library Is Sus—Online at 3:00pm; call the Library to register

Tuesday

Try It Tuesday Craft—View online; kits available outside the Library after 4:00pm

Library Happy Hour—Online at 5:00pm; call the Library to register

Wednesday

Grab & Go Activity Kit—Available outside the Library after 10:00am

Snackchat: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Grades—Online at 4:00pm; pickup a snack pack at the Library before the meeting

Pajama Storytime—Online at 7:00pm; call the Library to register

Thursday

Third Thursday Book Club—Online at 11:00am; call the Library to register

Gingerbread Jamboree to Go—2:00-4:00pm; limited kits are available outside the Library and are first come, first served

Friday

Aloha Friday—View online after 10:00am

Read, Discover, Connect

@ Sierra Madre Public Library



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Saturday.....9am-5pm

Sunday.....Closed



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Sunday.....Closed



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Sierra Madre Woman's Club

550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. **2020: 113 Years**
Founded February 23, 1907 - "Living the Volunteer Life" in Friendship
Member of General Federation of Women's Clubs cfwc.org & gfwc.org

Wed, 12/16: 11 am - 12 Noon : Zoom



'Out On A Limb' Book Club

"As Bright As Heaven"
by Susan Meissner

Borrow from SM Library, Buy via Vroman's
Call 355-6225 by Tues, 5 pm 11/15 for Zoom Info

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



Sierra Madre Woman's Club

550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. **2020: 113 Years**
Founded February 23, 1907 - "Living the Volunteer Life" in Friendship
Member of General Federation of Women's Clubs cfwc.org & gfwc.org

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



KIWANIS CLUB OF
SIERRA MADRE
Since 1927

WALK THROUGH
HISTORY WITH
SIERRA MADRE VETERANS

Wednesday, November 11, 2020
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
MEMORIAL PARK - SIERRA MADRE

TAKE A FEW MOMENTS OUT FOR A WALK
THROUGH THE PARK AND LEARN ABOUT
SOME OF SIERRA MADRE'S MOST NOTABLE
VETERANS. EXHIBIT OPEN ALL DAY.
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Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

Local Area News Brief

Pasadena Man Charged with CARES Fraud, Buys Maserati

A Pasadena man was scheduled to be arraigned Friday on federal charges alleging he used stolen identities to fraudulently obtain unemployment insurance benefits, which he later used to purchase a Maserati.

During a traffic stop October 1, Pasadena Police officers arrested Robert Sloan Mateer, 30 and found inside his Maserati, 17 unemployment benefits debit cards, several other credit and debit cards, approximately \$197,711 in cash, more than 85 grams of methamphetamine and a loaded firearm with no serial number.

Evidence gathered during the investigation determined that at least 14 of the 17 debit cards were loaded with at least \$133,000 in unemployment insurance benefits, later determined to have been issued under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress in March, and had been issued in the names of third-parties, including identity theft victims.

Mateer also admitted that he withdrew the approximately \$197,711 in cash found in his Maserati from ATMs across Los Angeles. Mateer was taken into federal custody on October 21 and was ordered detained pending trial.

If convicted of all charges, Mateer would face a statutory mandatory minimum sentence of 17 years and a statutory maximum sentence of life in prison.

New South Pasadena Water and Sewer Rates For 2021

The South Pasadena City Council approved establishing new water rates with additional increase from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and new sewer rates. The new rates were approved on November 18. The MWD's change of the wholesale water rate for 2021 is considered as pass-through charge. Here are a few important key notes of the new rates:

New rates will be effective January 1, 2021. Residents will see the new rates for January 2021 service on their bills around March or April 2021.

Water Rates for 2021 will increase by approximately 6.2 percent for the bi-monthly fixed charge and 8.8% for the volume charge.

Most single-family residences are served by a 3/4" meters, which are the least expensive sized meters available. Sewer rates for 2021 will increase by approximately 4 percent from current sewer rate.

For more information visit: southpasadenaca.gov (search for water rates).



Victor Gordo Sworn in as New Mayor

By Dean Lee

Newly elected Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo took the oath of office Monday during a drive-in style ceremony that looked and sounded more like something out of the movie Cars.

"I was elected to standup for Pasadena and to bring our community together," Gordo said. "I humbled by trust and confidence, that you the voters, have placed in me... Pasadena is in fact the center of the universe. You should get used to hearing that... how many cities our size can you go to and visit and you want to explore or learn about the universe, you go to Caltech. If you want to explore the universe you go to JPL. We don't

have a football game; we have the 'granddaddy of them all.' We don't have a stadium, we have America's stadium. You want a parade, we have the parade... I feel fortunate to land here in Pasadena; my parents brought me here when I was almost five." Gordo went on to say every child in Pasadena should have the save opportunity as he did, including to be a successful and contributing member of the community, in safe and thriving neighborhoods. Gordo also led a moment of silence for those who died from COVID-19 and to recognize Pearl Harbor Day, "2020 has been a difficult year for the entire world," he said.

Newly elected councilmember Felicia Williams also took the Oath of Office

"Thank you to some of my friends and family, some of who you hear honking," Williams said. "I look forward to working with a great team of councilmembers, to create the policy of the people and talented staff to implement that policy."

She said her first priority is to safely reopen the city, "with practical rules that apply to everyone, whether you are a small business or a big business, house of worship, school or fitness studio."

The city council also elected District 7 Councilmember Andy Wilson as Vice Mayor.

Operation Polar Wind brings Cheer to Huntington Hospital

Santa took a polar express ride earlier this week in Police Helicopter "PD1" to deliver gifts from our Air Operations 15th annual "Polar Winds" Toy Drive

The toys were delivered Wednesday to the Huntington pediatric unit and will be given to pediatric patients for the holidays. Santa and Mrs. Claus were joined by Pasadena Chief of Police John Perez.

During this year's annual Operation Polar Wind, the children were not able to meet Santa as he landed on the roof, instead, the hospital's staff delivered the toys in a safe manner due to COVID-19.

Many of the children that participate in Operation Polar Wind suffer from life threatening illnesses that do not allow them



to spend Christmas outside the hospital.

According to Pasadena police staff, all the toys were donated or purchased with money donated by employees of the police department and other agencies.

Photo is courtesy Pasadena Police Department.

Suspects Wanted in Attempted Murder of Deputy in Altadena



Suspect 1



Suspect 2

Altadena Sheriffs are asking for the public's help identifying two suspects wanted for the attempted murder of a deputy sheriff Dec. 4. The two suspects are pictured above.

According to Investigators, a deputy was patrolling the 2500 block of Fair Oaks Avenue, in Altadena at approximately 12:33 p.m. when she came upon a crime in progress. As she approached the group in her vehicle, two males, believed to be Hispanic, targeted her. The first suspect produced a firearm, and fired several gunshots in

the deputy's direction. The Deputy was not injured. Both suspects fled on foot and are still outstanding. It is still unclear what type of crime was being committed at the time of the shooting, they said.

One of the suspects' black jacket and shoes were located nearby. He was pictured running in socks. A white jacket, thought to be the other the suspects', was also located nearby. Any information regarding this incident or suspects pictured above, please contact the Operation Safe Streets Detective C. Gutierrez at 626-798-1131.

New Years TV Celebration Celebrity Guests Announced

Get ready to welcome the New Year with stars of the screen, stage and sports as the Pasadena Tournament of Roses announced Tuesday special performances and celebrity guests for "The Rose Parade's New Year Celebration presented by Honda," airing with six broadcast partners on New Year's Day.

The reimagined celebration of the New Year will feature stellar musical entertainment and exciting celebrity guest appearances. For fans of country music, television, Broadway and sports - there's something for everyone in the family to enjoy. Musical performances by: Sheryl Crow (pictured) - nine-time GRAMMY Award winner with more than 50 million albums sold Mickey Guyton - country singer-songwriter and historic GRAMMY Award nominee Tori Kelly - multi-GRAMMY Award winner, singer-songwriter Lady A - multi-Platinum, seven-time GRAMMY Award-winning country trio Rascal Flatts - the most awarded country group of the last decade The War and Treaty - eclectic, soulful, husband-and-wife duo, one of Nashville's breakout acts Celebrity Guest appearances: Daddy Yankee - multi award-winning singer, songwriter, actor and producer Shanola Hampton - star of "Shameless" on Showtime Laurie Hernandez - Olympic Gold and Silver medalist, 2016 U.S. Olympic Women's Gymnastics Team Emeril Lagasse - chef, restaurateur, TV personality and author Matt Leinart - 2019 Rose Bowl Hall of Fame inductee, former NFL player and Heisman Trophy winner

Rita Moreno - Emmy, GRAMMY, Oscar and Tony (EGOT) award winner Dascha Polanco - star of Netflix hit, "Orange is the New Black"

The special will air on ABC, Hallmark Channel, KTLA, NBC and RFD-TV at 8 a.m. PST and on Univision at 7 a.m. PST on January 1, 2021. In order to limit travel and ensure the safety of our talent, these performance segments were filmed at iconic locations around the country; Grand Ole Opry and the Rose Bowl Stadium. To keep everyone safe, all new footage for the special was filmed using the strictest COVID safety protocols.

For more information about "The Rose Parade's New Year Celebration," visit: tournamentofroses.com.



Vin Scully - voice of the Los Angeles Dodgers for more than 65 years

Gary Sinise - actor, philanthropist and 2018 Rose Parade Grand Marshal Past Rose Parade Grand Marshals, Emeril Lagasse and Gary Sinise, will both be featured in the special. Gary will open the show and Emeril will shake us up with his favorite New Year's Day cocktail.

The TV entertainment special - "The Rose Parade's New Year Celebration presented by Honda," - will also feature marching band performances, heartwarming segments related to the Rose Parade, special Rose Bowl Game football highlights, equestrians, spectacular floats from years past, a behind-the-scenes look into the making of a float and New Year's wishes from fans around the world.

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For more information about "The Rose Parade's New Year Celebration," visit: tournamentofroses.com.

Holden Introduces Bill to Limit Lead in Drinking Water

Assemblymember Chris Holden announced Friday that he introduced legislation, AB 100 that would set a limit on the amount of lead leaching from drinking water faucets and fixtures.

"We all expect the water we drink will keep us and our children healthy, and not make us sick," said Assemblymember Chris Holden. "This legislation ensures that faucets and plumbing fixtures sold in California leach as little lead as possible."

Lead is a severe neurotoxin that damages the brains and central nervous systems of young children. Lead is also a carcinogen and harms organs. Low levels

of lead in children cause IQ loss, learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and impaired hearing.

Currently, consumers have no idea when they go to a hardware store if the faucet they buy is safe or not. Faucets can leach lead when they are used. Holden's bill would restrict the amount of lead leaching from faucets and fixtures to no more than 1 microgram, which is five times lower than the current industry standard.

"We want to ensure that Californians can feel comfortable when purchasing new faucets, and are not ingesting lead that we know to be dangerous to our health," said Holden

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ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, November 29th, through Saturday, December 5th, the Police Department responded to 822 calls for service, of which 83 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of some of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, November 29:

1. At 8:40 a.m., an officer responded to Hall of Fame Baseball Cards, located at 319 East Foothill Boulevard, regarding an attempted commercial burglary report. The officer discovered an unidentified suspect had shattered a front window that was located next to the handle of the door. It appears the suspect did not enter the business and no loss was reported. There are no investigative leads as of the date of this report.
2. At 9:47 a.m., an officer responded to Pets Grooming, located at 40 East Live Oak Avenue, regarding a commercial burglary report. An investigation revealed the suspect(s) accessed a key storage box, then used the key to enter the business. The suspects ransacked the location and fled with cash from the register and the video surveillance system. The investigation is pending a review of the surveillance footage.

Monday, November 30:

3. At 10:21 a.m., an officer took a telephonic report of an incident of fraud. The victim stated her wallet was stolen while shopping at various grocery stores located in Pasadena and Arcadia. Sometime during her outing, the suspect attempted to make fraudulent purchases with the victim's credit card in Montebello and Glendale. The investigation is ongoing.
4. At 1:45 p.m., an officer responded to 316 South First Avenue regarding a vandalism report. The victim discovered someone had fired a bb gun at one of the rear windows, causing the window to shatter. The investigation is pending a review of the surveillance footage.
5. At 1:59 p.m., an officer responded to a public parking lot at 41 Wheeler Avenue regarding a vehicle burglary report. The victim stated sometime between 1:50 p.m. and 1:59 p.m., someone smashed the front passenger window and fled with her bag containing cash and credit cards. The investigation is awaiting the submission of surveillance footage.

Tuesday, December 1:

6. At 12:26 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 600 block of West Lemon Avenue regarding a fraud report. The victim stated she purchased a new iPhone, valued at \$1,322.98, on eBay only to become a victim of fraud when the seller mailed her a different item, valued at less than \$100.00. The investigation is ongoing.

Wednesday, December 2:

7. At 10:02 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 100 block of Diamond Street regarding a burglary report. Surveillance footage revealed a male suspect entered the victim's unlocked vehicle that was parked in front of her residence. The suspect stole a garage door opener, a purse, and other miscellaneous items. With the garage door opener, the suspect entered the attached garage and may have fled with additional items. The suspect is de-

scribed as a male wearing a hooded sweatshirt, pants, and a mask. The investigation is ongoing.

8. At 4:18 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 400 block of Sharon Road regarding a burglary report. An investigation revealed the suspect(s) smashed a rear sliding glass door, and once inside, it appeared the suspect only opened a liquor cabinet. There is no suspect information and the loss is unknown at this time.

Thursday, December 3:

9. At 2:15 p.m., an officer responded to the 100 block of East Huntington Drive regarding a stolen vehicle report. Sometime between 2:30 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. on December 3rd, the victim's 1999 Toyota Tacoma pickup was stolen from the location. The victim left his keys and wallet in the unlocked vehicle. No suspects were seen and no witnessed were located.
10. At 4:37 p.m., an officer responded to the 2400 block of Albert Way regarding a grand theft from person report. Two suspects contacted the victim, who was wearing a gold necklace, and placed costume jewelry on him as if it was a gift. When the victim asked for the costume jewelry to be removed, the suspects then removed the victim's real gold necklace and left the victim with the costume jewelry. The suspects are described as a male and female with Middle Eastern accents. They were driving a small white SUV, possibly a Toyota or Mazda. The investigation is ongoing.

Friday, December 4:

11. At 8:48 a.m., an officer responded to the 300 block of South Third Avenue regarding a theft from vehicle report. Sometime during the previous night, a suspect entered the victim's unlocked vehicle and stole her vehicle registration and proof of insurance. There are no investigative leads as of the date of this report.
12. At 6:23 p.m., an officer responded to the FedEx parking lot, located at 12369 Lower Azusa Road, regarding a theft of vehicle parts report. The victim discovered the catalytic converter for his vehicle had been removed. The investigation is pending a review of surveillance footage.
13. At 6:46 p.m., an officer took a telephonic fraud report for a victim who resides in the 500 block of West Duarte Road. The victim stated she was contacted by the suspect who claimed to be calling from the Social Security Administration. The suspect indicated that the victim's social security number had been compromised. After the victim provided the suspect with her personal information and transferred nearly \$3,000.00 in Bitcoin in order to resolve the issue, the victim became suspicious. The investigation is ongoing.

Saturday, December 5:

14. At 3:05 p.m., an officer took a telephonic report of a petty theft report that occurred in the 900 block of Coronado Drive. Surveillance footage revealed two suspects approached the victim's front porch and stole two unsecured bicycles. The suspects are described as a male wearing a blue hooded sweatshirt, a white face mask, and a light blue backpack and a second suspect who is described as a male or female and was seen wearing a dark gray hooded sweatshirt and a white face mask. The investigation is ongoing.

DUARTE CITY COUNCIL SELECTS MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM, INTRODUCES NEW COUNCIL

At its December 8 City Council Meeting, the Duarte City Council appointed Bryan Urias from District 6 as Mayor and Margaret Finlay from District 4 as Mayor Pro Tem for the upcoming year. The Council also welcomed back Toney Lewis as well as new Councilmembers Jody Schulz and Vinh Truong.

Mayor Urias was first elected to the Duarte City Council in November of 2018. During his first term, Urias served as the council representative on the Duarte Community Coordinating Council and an alternate for both the Gold Line Joint Powers Authority and the Duarte Community Ser-vices Council. For eight years prior to joining the Council, Urias represented Duarte residents as District 5 Director on the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Board and also worked with the City as a staff member for then Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis and later Con-gresswoman Judy Chu. "It is an honor and a privilege to serve Duarte in this new capacity," said Mayor Urias. "The Council has challenging work ahead, and we're committed to building an even stronger future for our City."

Mayor Pro Tem Finlay formerly served as mayor for six terms. Her accomplishments include the installation of the soundwall on the south side of the 210 freeway, expanding programs for senior citizens, serving as chairperson for the successful 1998 Measure B School Bond effort that improves aging Duarte Schools and developing many local services and infrastructure. Mayor Pro Tem Finlay and her husband raised five children in Duarte, one of which, James Fin-lay, currently serves as a Board of Education Member for the Duarte Unified School District. "I look forward to working with this Council to achieve our goals, which include updating the City's website to make information more accessible to residents and supporting our local businesses through recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic," said Mayor Pro Tem Finlay.

Toney Lewis, a lifelong member of the Duarte community and proud Duarte High School Fal-con, will continue to represent Duarte's 7th District. He served for more than 27 years in multiple capacities as a member of the fire service. Additionally, he served as a longtime volunteer of the non-profit, Habitat for Humanity. Councilmember Lewis is proud of Duarte's diversity and looks forward to embracing it throughout his service. Some of his initial goals include increasing voter registration and community engagement.

Jody Schulz, a first-generation college graduate who holds a Master of Science degree, will now represent District 3. Councilmember Schulz has served the Duarte community as public safety commissioner. She will leverage her skills of tracking issues, analyzing data, increasing efficien-cy and advancing strategic thinking in her role. Council-member Schulz is an active member of the community and belongs to several community organizations that represent Duarte's diverse population, including the Duarte Rotary Club, Duarte Chamber of Commerce and Duarte Women's Club.

Vinh Truong, serving Duarte's 2nd District, is the child of Chinese immigrants who came to the United States in the 1970s and settled in Duarte in 1985. Councilmember Truong attended Du-arte schools through high school and went on to become a licensed life and health agent. He has held a seat on the Duarte Economic Development Commission and served as a board member of the Santa Anita Family YMCA. In 2019, Councilmember Truong was appointed to Duarte's Financial Advisory Task Force, which allowed him to learn about the City's financial condition and engrain in him the value of economic growth.

ALTADENA-SO. PASADENA-SAN MARINO

53rd Annual Holiday Look in Home Tour Goes Virtual

The Annual Holiday Look-In Home Tour presented by the Women's Committee of the Pasadena Symphony goes virtual this year. The 2020 tour showcases the architecture and gardens of four magnificent Pasadena homes decorated for the holidays in festive floral regalia. Embellished with the talent of Pasadena's finest floral designers these homes are a true holiday delight. The virtual experience will be narrated by the Pasadena Symphony's Music Director, David Lockington, with music provided by the talented musicians of the Pasadena Symphony Youth Orchestras.

The 2020 Holiday Look In Virtual Home Tour, chaired by Lisa Ashworth and Gail Crotty, will run from though December 31. The tour is presented free of charge by registering. Donations to support programs of the Pasadena Symphony Youth Orchestras and the Pasadena Symphony will be graciously accepted. To add to the holiday spirit, the Holiday Look-In Boutique will provide an online opportunity to shop to your heart's content.

Magnolia House

This regal Federal style home pays tribute to its history while residing gracefully in the present. The home was built in 1912 by architect Reginald Johnson. The stately two-story residence welcomes visitors with its large colonnaded veranda and is sheltered by a large magnolia tree and a towering pine tree. It is appropriately located on Magnolia Street and artistic embellishments throughout the home pay tribute to the stately Magnolia tree. The present owners have lovingly updated this home, with an appreciation of the richness of the past, but with a desire to have it reflect modern living for their active family. This home represents true Southern California living at its best.

House of a Thousand Dreams

This magnificent Basque country villa was designed in 1929 by Edward M. Fowler with exquisite, detailed attention to the beautiful Basque estates in the Pyrenees. The house is located in the Linda Vista neighborhood of the Upper Arroyo in Pasadena with a spectacular view of the Pioneers and the Colorado Street Bridges. This 7500 square foot home features low-pitched red tile roofs, half-timbered walls, heavy wooden beams and stonework, rustic interior striated walls, barrel-vaulted ceilings and large fireplaces. The home was designed around a central courtyard

providing a view of the lovely garden from almost every room of the house and includes the original stone tiles that carry over into the loggia.

F.W. Griffith House

This sublime Mediterranean-style home was designed in 1925 by Roland E. Coate, one of the most distinguished designers of Spanish architecture in the 1920's. Originally built for F.W. Griffith, it is an outstanding example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, featuring textured white-washed adobe exteriors, mission-style arches and batten shutters. The house is centrally located in Pasadena's Landmark Oak Knoll District, adjacent to the celebrated Langham Hotel. The 3800 square foot home faces inward to a beautiful courtyard, arched loggia, Spanish-tiled fountain, refreshing pool, and spa. A magnificent crepe myrtle tree provides shade and beautiful flowers when in bloom. This gorgeous outdoor living space provides a peaceful sanctuary for relaxing and entertaining.

Villa Verde

Elegant iron scroll gates open to a winding drive which leads up to this magnificent Mediterranean estate known as "Villa Verde." Created in 1927 by architect Sylvanus Marston of the firm Marston, Van Pelt & Maybury, the property was built for E. A. Hardy, who was the past chairman of B. F. Goodrich. In 1984 the house was placed in the National Register of Historic Places as the best representative of his Mediterranean architectural style. The 22-room, 8500 sq. foot home sits on beautifully landscaped grounds atop a knoll overlooking the Arroyo Seco and affords 40-mile views over Pasadena, Altadena, Mt. Wilson, and Old Baldy. Many of the original garden plantings remain and are historically significant.

As the volunteer fundraising arm of the Pasadena Symphony and POPS, the Women's Committee of the Pasadena Symphony Association has been together with the PSA since 1967. For over 50 years, the volunteers of the Women's Committee have put their talent, organizational know-how and sheer determination to the service of the Pasadena Symphony and POPS by conceiving and producing the annual Holiday Look In Home Tour. For more information and registration visit PasadenaHolidayLookIn.org.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program Deadline Extended

The application period for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) has been extended to February 1, 2021, to allow tenants additional time to apply for assistance after the holidays. The ERAP will provide rental assistance to qualified South Pasadena tenants affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and who meet federal low-income requirements with a one-time grant. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (EARP) will provide residents who have lost income due to COVID-19 and meet federal

low-income requirements with a one-time grant of \$1,000. The monthly assistance payments will be provided directly to property owners or landlords on behalf of qualifying residents and will be applicable to rent due during the eligible period from March 19, 2020, until the end of the Los Angeles County Health Officer's Safer at Home Order.

To be considered for the grant, applicants must first submit the eligibility form included in the application packet before the application deadline. The City will review these forms to determine eligibility. A lottery drawing may be conducted to select qualified applications to move to the next phase.

These applicants will be required to submit additional documentation confirming substantive income losses caused by job layoffs, furloughs or reduction in hours or pay during the COVID-19 pandemic period beginning March 19. All documentation, including rental lease agreements, will be subject to verification.

Application packets are available on the City's website www.southpasadenaca.gov/ERAP. Eligibility requirements are outlined in the application packet, along with answers to frequently asked questions. Applicants may pick up application packets at the Senior Center (1102 Oxley St) by appointment. Please call (626) 491-3869 during business hours or email ERAP@southpasadenaca.gov to set-up an appointment. Alternatively, application packets are available at the South Pasadena Police Department's front counter (1422 Mission St.) between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information visit: southpasadenaca.gov,

OFFICIALS WARN DEMONSTRATIONS HIGH RISK OF TRANSMITTING COVID

For residents that plan on attending peaceful demonstrations, be aware of the elevated risks that come when people of different households gather during this pandemic, even when they are outdoors. Demonstrations can inadvertently result in transmission of COVID-19, including from people who are asymptomatic and have no idea that they are positive for the virus. If you unknowingly become infected, you may infect other people in your life, including people who are older or who have underlying health conditions that put them at far greater risk of becoming seriously ill and dying from COVID-19.

If you plan to attend a demonstration, please follow these guidelines:

Stay home if you are feeling sick. Seek medical attention as needed if you have symptoms for COVID-19, and be tested for the virus – testing is widely available across LA County.

If you are not sick and plan to attend a peaceful demonstration, wear a face covering over both your nose and mouth at all times and keep your physical distance, staying more than 3 steps away from anyone who is not from your household. Consider wearing eye protection. Encourage other attendees to do the same.

Keep your hands clean before, during, and after the demonstrations. Bring hand sanitizer or frequently wash your hands.

If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 during a demonstration, it is very important that you quarantine for 14 days and stay away from all other people, especially those at greater risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19.

More guidance for attending demonstrations is available online at: publichealth.lacounty.gov



AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

SOCALGAS ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL DONATION TO THE GAS ASSISTANCE FUND TO HELP CUSTOMERS IN NEED

There is still time for income qualified individuals and families to apply for up to \$200 to help pay their gas bills

LOS ANGELES, Calif. Dec. 10, 2020— As families are staying safe at home, Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) is encouraging its eligible customers to apply for the Gas Assistance Fund, a program that helps income-qualified customers pay their natural gas bill with a one-time grant of up to \$200 per household. So far this year, SoCalGas' Gas Assistance Fund received over \$370,000 and benefited more than 3,400 households, including elderly, people with disabilities, and low-income families in need. In response to the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, SoCalGas has donated an additional \$200,000 to the fund to support hundreds more people this year. Since 1983, SoCalGas shareholders, customers, and employees have contributed over \$23 million to the Gas Assistance Fund, helping more than 225,000 individuals and families.

“Natural gas is one of the most affordable utility bills, but in a year unlike any other, we recognize that many of our customers need an extra hand,” said Gillian Wright, senior vice president and chief customer officer for SoCalGas. “With COVID-19 cases increasing once again, our customers are spending more time at home, but they can rest assured that the natural gas service they use to cook meals and stay warm will be reliable. We are grateful to our shareholders, customers and employees that have contributed to the fund this year, which has allowed us to support many families in need.”

The Fund, administered by the United Way of Greater Los Angeles (United Way), helps low-income individuals and families in need pay their natural gas bills so they can cook, have hot water and heat their homes. United Way partners with nearly 80 nonprofit organizations throughout SoCalGas' service territory to distribute the grants. Those who wish to apply for a grant may do so by filling out an application with a participating United Way partner agency. The Gas Assistance Fund is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and eligible customers are able to apply until the funds are depleted. For a list of partner agencies, income guidelines, and additional program information, click here.

“We'll all be safer at home through this dangerous pandemic winter, but for our region's most vulnerable families, keeping warm can be a strain on a tight budget,” said Elise Buik, President and CEO of United Way of Greater Los Angeles. “We are proud to partner with SoCalGas to help our neighbors with utility bills and give them one less financial burden this holiday season.”

In light of the economic hardship facing many customers, SoCalGas has suspended service disconnections for our residential and small business customers. That means customers will not have their natural gas service turned off if they are unable to pay. In addition to the Gas Assistance Fund, SoCalGas offers other programs and services that can help customers manage home energy costs. Click here to learn more.

Since March, SoCalGas has donated more than \$3.2 million to nonprofit organizations for COVID-19 recovery efforts, including supporting the region's workforce, feeding the hungry, providing bill assistance to customers, and more. The company has provided COVID-19 relief grants to more than 200 nonprofit organizations throughout its service territory during this time.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COVID-19 UPDATE 12/11/2020

12/11/2020 3:30pm

LOS ANGELES COUNTY*	12/11/20	12/04/20
Total Cases	501,635	430,583
Deaths	8,199	7,842

STATS BY CITY

Population

Cases

Deaths

(12/04/2020 stats in parenthesis)

Pasadena	14,1371	4,536	(3875)	138	(135)
Uninc- East Pasadena	6,403	117	(117)	2	(2)
City of Arcadia	57,754	985	(877)	40	(40)
Uninc. - Arcadia	7,981	184	(161)	3	(3)
City of Bradbury	1,069	30	(27)	0	(0)
City of Duarte	22,016	957	(857)	37	(37)
Uninc.- Duarte	4,428	383	(338)	4	(4)
City of Monrovia	38,800	1305	(1189)	41	(41)
Uninc - Monrovia	3,881	142	(111)	0	(0)
City of Sierra Madre	10,989	175	(141)	5	(4)
City of So.Pasadena	26,053	516	(451)	28	(27)
Uninc.- Altadena	43,260	1278	(1116)	22	(21)

La County Testing as of 12/11/20: 4,021,359 (3,837,543)

Positivity Rate (No. of persons positive out of total persons tested)

as 12/11/20: 12.0 % (10.5) Nationally recommended Positivity Level: 5%

L.A. COUNTY EXCEEDS 500,000 COVID-19 CASES AND CONTINUES TO BREAK ALL-TIME RECORDS

Please Stay Home and Follow the Safety Guidance

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has reported more than 500,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County. We have reported 100,000 new cases since November 30, when L.A. County reached 400,000 COVID-19 cases.

To date, Public Health identified 501,635 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County and a total of 8,199 deaths. Upon further investigation, 97 cases reported earlier were not L.A. County residents.

There are 3,624 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized and 23% of these people are in the ICU. The number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 continues to exceed all-time highs every day since December 1 and has increased nearly every day since November 1. The number of people hospitalized has increased twofold in just 15 days.

The impact of the Thanksgiving surge of cases on top of already rising cases is creating extraordinary stress on our healthcare system. When we see increases in cases, we see increases in hospitalizations about two weeks later.

In two weeks, there could be over 7,300 daily hospitalizations for COVID-19, and over 1,600 patients in the ICU. This is alarming given that there are only 2,100 adult ICU beds across County hospitals and many of these beds are essential for patients that need intensive care for other illness including trauma, cardiac surgeries, serious infections, and cancer treatments.

“These numbers are overwhelming. The grief that our community continues to experience cannot be comprehended, and my deepest sympathies go out to everyone who is mourning,” said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. “We cannot undo what has already been done and collectively, we are going to pay a very high price for the actions we took in the past. What we can do and what everyone across the county needs to do right now is to stay at home as much as possible, and limit going out to what is essential: work, school, childcare, exercise and obtaining necessary goods and services. The best way to protect our essential workers, including healthcare workers, who have to serve and be with others, is to always follow the rules when you are with or around those not in your family: we need everyone to wear a face covering and keep physical distance from anyone they do not live with. Make the choice today and every day through December that you will protect yourself, you will protect your friends and loved ones, and you will protect the friends and loved ones of other people. Our actions prevent terrible suffering and save lives.”

Testing results are available for more than 4,060,000 individuals with 12% of all people testing positive. Today's daily test positivity rate is 14.4%.

The 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.

Avoid the Three Cs

Crowds

Confined spaces

Close contact

with people outside your household



covid19.lacounty.gov

HOLDEN INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO EXTEND AND EXPAND DUAL ENROLLMENT

Assemblymember Chris Holden introduced legislation Friday to extend, AB 102, and expand, AB 103, dual enrollment opportunities for California students. Specifically, AB 102 would eliminate the 2027 sunset date for College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnerships, while AB 103 increase access to dual enrollment opportunities for students in juvenile court schools.

“Dual enrollment increases the number of college graduates, reduces time and money spent for college, and helps close the achievement gap,” said Holden. “Making dual enrollment permanent means more school districts will be able to invest in creating these partnership agreements that benefit their students and prepare them for college.”

Dual and concurrent enrollment provides high school students access to college-level coursework. In some cases, students earn both high school and college credit for the same course depending on approval from local school and community college governing boards. Assemblymember Holden first established the College and Career Access Pathways program in 2015 (AB 288) and has since passed numerous bills to increase and expand dual enrollment opportunities through these partnerships.

According to an October 2018 Career Ladders study, students who participate in dual enrollment at a community college during high school are more likely to graduate and enter college and more likely to complete a certificate, degree, or transfer. A key finding was that students most underrepresented in community

colleges often benefit the most.

AB 103 would allow juvenile court schools, through the county offices of education, to participate in College and Career Access Pathways partnerships in the same way local school districts do. Students in juvenile court schools experience high rates of educational instability, and are likely to be behind in credits. As the quality of court school education varies widely, many students express that they feel disengaged from school, or that they are constantly repeating material that they have already covered. Increasing educational opportunities, like dual enrollment, for students in juvenile hall could provide a turning point that leads to academic success and future employment.

“Despite the high aspirations of youth in the juvenile justice system for postsecondary educational attainment, the system fails to support access to college,” said Assemblymember Chris Holden. “AB 103 provides an opportunity for a uniquely vulnerable population to make academic progress and jump-start their college education.”



MONROVIA LIMITS SERVICES FOR HOLIDAYS

This year has been an unimaginable year that brought on many unexpected challenges. During this time, your City staff have continued to serve you as swiftly and safely as possible using innovative and creative ways to ensure services were minimally interrupted.

To allow for time to celebrate the holiday season, the Monrovia City Council has approved limiting non-essential services from December 28, 2020, through January 1, 2021. All City facilities will re-sume normal hours of operation on Monday, January 4, 2021.

The City would still continue to provide emergency response and essential services. Additionally, staff will still be available to assist you in a limited manner.

ATHENS SERVICES HOLIDAY SCHEDULING & DECORATIONS RECYCLING

Athens Services will observe the holidays on Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1, 2021. If your regularly rescheduled trash day is Friday, please be advised that it will be scheduled for pickup on Saturday for these two weeks.

In addition, as we look to prepare for the holidays, we wanted to inform residents that curbside Christmas Tree recycling will be available from December 26, 2020, through January 16, 2021.

To recycle your Christmas Tree, be sure to:

- Place your tree curbside on your regularly scheduled trash collection day.
- Remove all ornaments, tinsel, plastic bags, nails, lights and plastic or metal stands need to be removed.

To properly dispose of your Christmas lights, you may place them in your trash bin. We ask for the light strings to be cut in half to prevent tangling. As a reminder, fluorescent lightbulbs are prohibited from trash disposal.

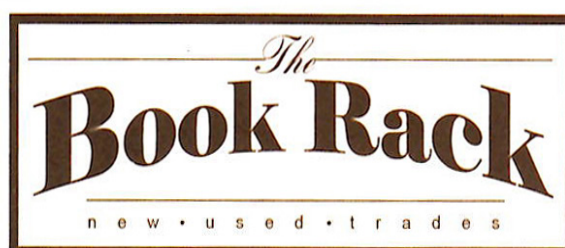
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SIERRA MADRE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE



As part of a special project, our Visual Arts students created Gratitude Posters and hung them along our Canon Ave. fence. Thank you to our students for reminding us that even during the most challenging of times, we truly have much to be grateful for.



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
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Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172
FAX: 626-286-1528
E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org

Foothill Oaks Academy
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Principal: Nancy Lopez
www.foothilloaksacademy.org
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Frostig School
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Head of School: Jenny Janetzke
Email: jenny@frostig.org

The Gooden School
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Head of School, Jo-Anne Woolner
website: www.goodenschool.org

High Point Academy
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Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989
website: www.highpointacademy.org

La Salle College Preparatory
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(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
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website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

Pasadena High School
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website: http://phs.pusd.us

St. Rita Catholic School
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solis@st-ritaschool.org
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Sierra Madre Elementary School
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APPLY FOR YOUNG LEGISLATORS PROGRAM BY DECEMBER 15

State Assemblymember Chris Holden announced Tuesday the availability of applications for the 2021 Young Legislators Program. Now in its sixth year, the Young Legislators Program offers high school seniors in the 41st Assembly District a front row seat to the public policy and political arena.

"I'm excited to launch the sixth annual Young Legislators Program for the 41st Assembly District," said Assemblymember Chris Holden. "While we are meeting virtually this year, I have no doubt this program will again have a lasting impact on the students."

During the four month program, students will meet virtually once a month to become better advocates on issues they care about, gain valuable leadership skills, and learn about the legislative process.

"I loved learning about the role and importance of both local government and agencies that work to serve their communities," said Bess Brandow who participated in the 2019 Young Legislators Program.

"The entire program was phenomenal! It strengthened my passion for politics and has made me become more engaged to further follow what I believe in," said Osvaldo Valdiviezo who participated in the 2018 Young Legislators Program. "Also the friendships and memories I made are something I treasure and am grateful for."

The 2021 Young Legislators Program is open to high school seniors living in the 41st Assembly District. Applicants must commit to four monthly, two-hour Saturday meetings starting in February 2021 and submit applications by December 15, 2020. Program details and application are available online at <https://a41.asmdc.org/young-legislators-program-2021>.

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HAVE YOU SEEN FROSTY?



PORTRAIT OF OUR NEIGHBORS By Stuart Tolchin

BRANDON EASTON

I present the piece as an illustration of my basic thesis that even in these difficult restricted times interesting people pass by our front door. Now some of us have the time to get to know them a little better, perhaps contributing to a more acceptable mental inner place or even a better outer world. I spoke with, Brandon Easton, a professional screenwriter and educator now based in this area. He was born in Baltimore Maryland and still has a great attachment based on his boyhood experiences there. He has received numerous awards and honors and is known for his work in the comic book industry, writing on series like Judge Dredd, Spider-Man, Vampire Hunter D and Closer to Heaven, the acclaimed biography of the late pro-wrestler Andre the Giant.

Brandon's career also spills into the realm of television, with credits on the 2011 WB reboot of Thundercats, Netflix's hit new series Transformers: War for Cybertron, Marvel's Agent Carter, Avengers Assemble: Black Panther and much more. One of my hopes in our conversation was to gain some understanding of this modern phenomena which reaches so many and perhaps has the potential to remedy present inequalities which negatively affect everybody. In the first moments of our conversation I immediately recognized a highly educated man with broad interests and knowledge in many fields. Speaking to him reminds me of speaking with scholars who possess a great depth of knowledge which left me with the desire to hear more. I was surprised to learn that Brandon had a very difficult, unstable childhood causing him at fifteen to leave home and reside with a friend. He still has concerns about the welfare of his mother and periodically returns to Baltimore to assist her.

The obvious question is- given such a difficult childhood how did he get to be who he is now? He obtained his undergraduate education from Ithaca College; a place he describes as being in the middle of nowhere in upstate New York. Why and how in the world did he end up there? "It was simple," he explained, "because Ithaca offered the best financial aid package."

As an African American student with no money and from a different geographical region, Brandon found himself at odds with the other students of color (who mainly hailed from NYC) and most of the financially privileged kids at Ithaca. Nevertheless, while there, he developed an insight which influenced the rest of his life. As he learned more of America's disreputable history it gave birth to his writing voice combined with a greater sociological understanding. Subsequently he obtained a Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting from Boston University and second master's from CUNY Lehman College in Secondary Social Studies Education. With new insights and educational qualifications, he hoped he could make a difference by teaching in New York public schools. During his six years there, he became aware of the almost inescapable disadvantages of attempting to reach already disillusioned students. He described the incredible disrespect for teachers now existing in the school resulting in a complete lack of discipline and a general experience of chaos.

Bravely, he came to Hollywood with the hope of becoming a screenwriter positively reaching young people and obtaining greater personal satisfaction. Despite numerous obstacles breaking into the scene, he managed to achieve his dream of becoming a professional writer. Before Covid, Brandon led multiple panels at major comic conventions discussing issues of racial discrimination in the entertainment industry. Certainly, there is much more to write about Brandon and his past and current adventures in Hollywood and I plan to do that in a future article. By the way, he and my daughter have been living together in a loving relationship for about ten years and are the parents of my sixteen month old granddaughter, the most wonderful person in the history of the Universe.

You never know who's going to pass your front door.



Katnip News!

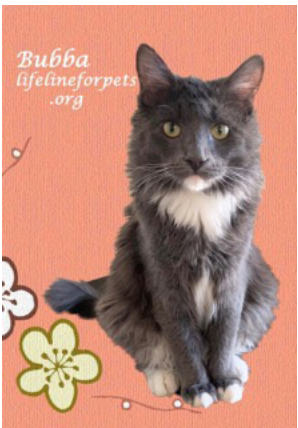


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BEAUTIFUL BOY! BUBBA is a gorgeous young cat! He was found as a stray kitten without his mother in an area full of coyotes. Luckily, a loving foster home took him in but the landlord won't let them keep him. Bubba is a good kitten,

very loving and playful. He's beautiful and will make someone a wonderful pet. Bubba will come vetted and neutered. He's only 9 months old.

See our website's Adoption Procedures page to apply. Can't adopt? Please share and/or donate to our Giving Grid in honor of your own pet/s: <https://www.givinggrid.com/gt2020/>.



Pet of the Week

Two-year-old Bob is active, energetic, and loves attention! This handsome kitty would do best in a home with an experienced cat person who is not only savvy with cat body language, but can also give Bob all the mental stimulation (like puzzle feeders and lots of playtime) he needs to be happy. Bob is an enthusiastic guy who purrs when he's touched and eagerly accepts treats. He has such a big personality!



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 and schedule a virtual adoption appointment at pasadenahumane.org. Adoptions are by appointment only, and new adoption appointments are available every Monday at 10:00 a.m. for the following week.

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

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TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills
thechefknows@yahoo.com

BUBBLES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Reader Lydia Bangston the pride of Sierra Madre asked my opinion on a decent Prosecco, I hope I come through

I have found a light and refreshing wine with enough bubbles to enjoy and flavor that even a splash of orange juice won't kill. Ruffino Prosecco has been produced from grapes grown in the hilly area of Valdobbiadene, which is the most historically vated region for the production of Prosecco. Bright straw yellow with fine bubbles, the bouquet is fragrant and intensely fruity. It shows clean notes of apples, pears and citrus. I found it crisp, clean and yet delicate - a perfect wine for a toast at a celebration. Intense sensations of apples and peaches drive a pleasant aftertaste that is reminiscent of fruity and floral aromas.



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Ideal as an aperitif, it is very versatile as a food companion. What to pair it with? Ruffino Prosecco matches well with fish and shellfish dishes as well as white meat dishes. I enjoyed this sparkler just this past weekend with a thin crust BBQ Chicken pizza. Others in this category would include Sofia Sparkling Wine and the previously written about Domain Chandon. I do recommend the Ruffino Prosecco for the toast and depending on the wedding or celebration menu at around \$14(Vons Pasadena) you can't go wrong. Again a touch of OJ or a sweet strawberry added and I won't call party foul. Enjoy!!

Dills Score 89

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

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HOW ROBOTIC PETS CAN HELP ISOLATED SENIORS AVOID LONELINESS

Dear Savvy Senior:

I recently read an article about robotic pets being a great substitute for pet-loving seniors who can't have or take care of a pet any longer. What do you think of this? My mother, who has some dementia, is living in an assisted living facility that doesn't allow pets. And because of COVID, we haven't been allowed inside the facility to visit her since March. I've been thinking about getting her a robot pet to help cheer her up but would like to know if they are worth buying, and if so, where can I go to find one. Locked Out Daughter

Dear Locked Out:

There have actually been several studies on this topic that has shown that robotic pets – which are lifelike interactive pets – can have a positive impact on many lonely, socially isolated seniors, especially those who have dementia. This is particularly important now as the pandemic has caused millions of high-risk, vulnerable seniors to isolate as a means to protect themselves from the coronavirus. Here's what you should know.

Robotic Pet Studies

In 2018, the New York State Office for the Aging was the first state in the U.S. to test the robotic pets with isolated seniors and results showed that using pets to lower social isolation was highly successful, with 70 percent of pilot participants reporting a decrease in isolation after one year. Subsequent programs done in aging agencies in Alabama, Florida and Pennsylvania have also shown positive results

Other clinical studies conducted by AARP, UnitedHealthcare, and other clinicians and have also found that robotic pets can help to enhance the well-being and quality of life of lonely or isolated individuals and those living with dementia and other forms of cognitive decline, by providing a level of interaction and comfort from a lifelike companion.

Where to Look

If you're interested in getting your mom a robotic pet, a top option is Ageless Innovation's Joy for All Companion Pets – see JoyForAll.com.

They offer cats, a kitten and a pup that look, feel and sound like the real thing – minus the feeding, watering, litter box or backyard cleanup, and the vet bills. With prices ranging between \$65 and \$130, these soft, plush animals have built-in sensors, "vibrapurr" or "barkback" technology, and brushable fur, making them surprisingly realistic.

Insert four batteries, and the cats, which come in four different shades to mimic real breeds, can open and close their eyes, lift their paws, and move their head and body. If you pet them in the right spot – like on their belly or back side – they'll let out a purr.

If your mom is more of a dog person, you can also buy a stuffed golden puppy, accessorized with a red bandana, that will bark if he's feeling happy, sad, or needy. At only four pounds, the stuffed pup is easy to play with and won't weigh down even the most fragile frame.

Some other robotic pet options you should look into include Tombot's Jennie (\$399; tombot.com), a lapdog that barks on command and has realistic facial features; AIBO (\$2,900; us.aibo.com) by Sony, which is a plastic puppy that has lifelike expressions and a dynamic array of movements; and Paro the Seal (\$6,120; parorobots.com), which is marketed as a "carebot," designed specifically for people with dementia.

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



SENIOR HAPPENINGS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...December Birthdays*



Maria Decker, Nancy Dorn, Prudence Levine Pat Karamitros, Joan Hufnagel, Mary Alice Cervera, Carol Horejsi, Shirley Anhalt, Helen Reese, Levon Yapoujian, Toni Buckner, Lottie Bugl, Pat McGuire, Sheila Wohler, Nan Murphy, Eleanor Hensel, Sylvia Curl, Elizabeth Levie, Gayle Licher, Cindy Barran, and Melissa Stute, Prudence Levin, Sheila Woehler. * To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required

SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN SIERRA MADRE

CHAIR YOGA Every Monday and Wednesday, 10-10:45 am Chair yoga with Paul is coming back! Class will begin on Monday, August 10th and will be held in the Covered Pavilion in Memorial Park in front of the Senior Center. Please join us for some gentle stretching, yoga, balance exercise and overall relaxation. Class size is limited so please call 264-8923 to reserve your spot.

HAWAIIAN AND POLYNESIAN DANCE CLASS Every Friday, 10-10:45 am Class will also meet in the Covered Pavilion in Memorial Park in front of the Senior Center. Join the class with instructor Barbara as she leads you through the art of Hula. Please call 264-8923 with any questions. Classes will maintain a distance of 6 ft between participants. ALL participants must be wearing masks for the duration of the class. All equipment used will be sanitized after each use before it is stored. Each participant is responsible for providing their own water, masks and needed equipment or supplies for each class. Please call the Community Services Department at 355-5278 with any questions or concerns.

OCTOBER CRAFT

Wednesday, October 21, 11:00 am. Please join me as we try our hands at making Wooden Owl Ornaments. This will be a new type of program as we create our masterpieces via Zoom to ensure all of our safety. I will have all the supplies individually packaged and ready for pickup on Monday, October 19th pickup will be between 10:00 am-2:00 pm. I will have enough supplies for 10 participants. Reservations are required so please call 355-5278 x 704 to secure your spot. Please note that this is an ONLINE class that will be held via Zoom. We will not be meeting in the Hart Park House Senior Center.

IDEAS

Do you have any ideas for programming? Is there a class or club you would like to see in our Senior Community? Please call or email Lawren Heinz with ideas or questions. 626-355-5278 x 704 lheinze@cityofsierramadre.com

City staff are monitoring email communication daily, and although employees are minimizing direct engagement and interfacing less with 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 time 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.

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 lheinze@cityofsierramadre.com and Clarissa Lowe Clowe@cityofsierramadre.com.

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

Mater Dolorosa - Sierra Madre Meal Pick-Up Program provides seal-packaged frozen meals, 5-per 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.

OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

CHRISTMAS IS MORE THAN JINGLE, JINGLE



I have been trying lately to remember my first Christmas. I know my memory isn't perfect, but I thought maybe I could bring up some old memories of my first Christmas.

Unfortunately, I couldn't think of a thing about that first Christmas of mine. Of course, it might be that I was only five months old at the time. Still, I tried to remember some of those old Christ-mases in the past. Down through the years, I have celebrated more Christmases than I want to let on. It's not that I'm old; I just haven't died yet.

The thing about Christmas was all the stuff I was getting. The first Christmas I remember, I got a bunch of presents under the tree. None of my siblings had shown up at the time, so I was the focus of several Christmases. That was the essence of real joy.

I thought Christmas was all about me and all I wanted for Christmas and all that would make me happy.

I remember my parents taking me downtown to sit on Santa's lap and tell what I wanted for Christmas. That's what I thought Christmas was all about.

I was a little disturbed when my siblings came on the scene, and Christmas was no longer all about "me." For some reason, they thought they were part of Christmas. Being the terrific brother that I am, I allowed them to have some of the Christmas time around the tree.

Then I was introduced to the fact that not only was I not the focus of Christmas but now I needed to purchase Christmas presents for my siblings. That was a hard thing to get over. What did they ever do to deserve my Christmas presents? I finally processed that and discovered giving can also be fun.

Things went along nicely, and then another thing changed everything in my Christmas activity. Going to a Bible school up in New York, I happened to meet a young lady. Before I could process everything, I found myself married. How that happens, men have no idea. I had to remind myself that weddings are for wives and not husbands. The husband that allows the wife to plan the wedding is a happy dude in the end. When we got married, I did not realize how everything in my life was going to change.

Then came the first Christmas as a married man, for which I wasn't prepared.

That Christmas we spent with my wife's family. At first, I thought the whole neighborhood had come to celebrate Christmas with us. Then, much to my chagrin, I realized these were siblings to my wife. I don't remember how many there were;

I couldn't count them; they were running around too fast.

I never experienced such a Christmas in all my life. The thing about it was we had to purchase gifts for all of the family. I was able to empty Walmart with all of my purchases.

Opening up those gifts, I couldn't remember what I got and who I got it for. But it was the beginning of a different kind of Christmas season than I experienced up to this time.

Then other things began to happen. One by one, children came into our family. Fortunately, we only had three children, unlike my wife's parents, who had somewhere near 100, at least by my calculation.

I eventually discovered that Christmas was not about me at all. There was a major adjustment for me thinking about the Christmas season. Not being a qualified shopper, I had to rely upon my wife to do all the shopping, for which she is an expert.

It wasn't long before I realized that a Christmas song with the word "jingle" in it meant that I was supposed to spend a lot of my coin for Christmas. Now, Christmas was not about me, or was it? It was about me paying for Christmas, and the recipients seem to be growing without stop.

I had my parents and my siblings to buy Christmas presents. I had my wife's parents and her siblings to buy Christmas presents. Then, I had my children to buy Christmas presents.

Why, oh, why is it all about "me?"

It took a while for me to come to the right conclusion that Christmas is more than "jingle, jingle." I came to that conclusion when one Christmas we were celebrating at our home, and our children and grandchildren were all around the Christmas tree opening up presents.

I sat back and just watched. Sure, I got a couple of Christmas presents. But that wasn't what Christmas was for me. I saw my family around that tree and realized that that's what Christmas was all about. Family coming together and enjoying one another.

The "jingle, jingle" was just the door that opens up the family celebration. Thinking about it, I have concluded that all the "jingle, jingle" in the world is worth every moment around that tree.

Then I thought about what the Bible said. "And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:6-7).

Christmas is all about family. God's family comes into the family through the Lord Jesus Christ.

FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett



5 QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE HIRING AN ESTATE PLANNING LAWYER—PART 1

Since you'll be discussing topics like death, incapacity, and other frightening life events, hiring an estate planning lawyer may feel intimidating or even morbid. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Instead, it can be the most empowering decision you ever make for yourself and your loved ones. The key to transforming the experience of hiring a lawyer from one that you dread into one that empowers you is to educate yourself first. This is the person who is going to be there for your family when you can't be, so you want to really understand who the lawyer is as a human, not just an attorney. Of course, you'll also want to find out the kind of services your potential lawyer offers and how they run their business.

To this end, here are five questions to ask to ensure you don't end up paying for legal services that you don't need, expect, or want. Once you know exactly what you should be looking for when choosing a planning professional, you'll be much better positioned to hire an attorney who will provide the kind of love, attention, care, and trust your family deserves.

1. How do you bill for your services?

There's no reason you should be afraid to ask a lawyer how he or she bills for the work they do on your behalf. In fact, questions about billing and payment should be thoroughly discussed before you engage any lawyer to represent you. No one wants surprises, especially when it comes to legal fees.

Find an estate planning lawyer who bills for their services on a flat-fee, no surprises, basis—and not on an hourly basis—unless it's required for limited purposes. And ideally, you want a lawyer who will guide you through a process of discovery in which they learn about your family dynamics, your assets, and they educate you about what would happen for your family and to your assets if and when something happens to you, and then support you in choosing the right plan for you that meets your budget and your desired outcomes.

2. How will you respond to my needs on an ongoing basis?

One of the biggest complaints people have about working with lawyers is that they are notoriously unresponsive. Indeed, I've heard of cases in which clients went weeks without getting a call back from their lawyer. This is all too common, but totally unacceptable, especially when you're paying them big bucks.

That said, in most cases, these lawyers aren't blowing you off—they simply don't have enough support or the systems in place to be able to be responsive. Far too many lawyers believe they can take care of everything themselves. From paperwork and client meetings to scheduling and returning phone calls to connecting their clients with other advisors, there are just too many responsibilities for one person to manage all on their own.

Ask them how quickly calls are typically returned in their office, ask them if there will be someone on-hand to answer quick questions, and ask them how they will support you to keep your plan up to date on an ongoing basis and be there for your loved one's when you can't be.

A great way to test this is to call your prospective lawyer's office and ask for him or her. If you get put through right away—or even worse, your call gets sent to a full voicemail—think twice about hiring this lawyer. This means they don't have effective systems in place for managing and responding to calls or answering quick questions.

Instead, what you want is for the person who answers the phone—or another team member—to offer to help you. And if that individual cannot help you, then he or she should schedule a call for you to talk with your lawyer at a future date and time. Ideally, all calls with your lawyer should be pre-scheduled with a clear agenda, so you both can be ready to focus on your specific needs.

Next week in part two, we'll talk more about the ways in which your attorney should communicate with you and list the remaining three questions to ask before hiring your estate planning lawyer. 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.CaliLaw.com

for more information.

At first, Dad and I didn't see eye to eye about moving to The Kensington, but since he did, we're both thrilled

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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 *The Eternal Search For Meaning IT ALWAYS GIVES ME SOMETHING TO DO*



One of the most disturbing things about being old and retired during this time of recommended (or is it required) Covid restrictions in that the only daily emails I receive are from some group or other that requests that I donate money for some worthy cause like saving the planet, or subscribing to some magazine or learning about my ancestors, or contributing to some worthy candidate, or perhaps receiving some guaranteed health cure. Generally, I am sympathetic to all of these foundations, political campaigns, and everything else but I am so wary of sending money or credit information anywhere that I ignore all requests and feel guilty. I also almost daily receive golfing instructions which lead to a sense of guilt since I haven't played for over a year. A final disturbance is periodic emails informing me that some long lost girl friend or college roommate has died, generally related to their tripping over a dog.

One other bothersome thing is seeing old people, you know, like the regularly golfing almost gone President, and the new President elect, and the Speaker of the House, and the Senior Senator from California pretending that they are still young and vigorous and have not forgotten much of what they once knew (like I have). When I see Joe Biden trying to look vigorous as he runs up to the microphone it makes me sick. It seemed only fitting this week to learn that this weekend he fractured his toe playing with his dog; I could have warned him. Strangely this past week I had finally convinced my wife that it was time for us to get another dog. Ours had died almost a year and a half ago and we have been in a kind of mourning ever since. After hearing about Biden's accident I concluded that the cosmos was informing me that it was not a good to get a dog but really I should forget how tired and generally depressed I was and get out there and play some golf. I am always looking for some secret meaning or message everywhere; what else do I have to do?

So I reviewed the golf instruction. Keep your left arm straight, don't let your right elbow chicken-wing, hit from inside out, and a continuous batch of information that I generally read and imagine myself going out to the course. Finally the day came, I called my golfing buddy that I had met on a different course a few years ago and set up a time. He is the perfect partner. Three years ago when we first met he told me he had only six months to live. Now, when I see him I am delighted to see that he is still around out and about enjoying himself. Still rather than being excited I found myself being very hesitant. Perhaps this was all noticeable to my friend who would not let me pay for my own round.

During the round, as I worried about the position of my arms, elbows and chicken wings it became humiliatingly obvious that I had great difficulty making contact with the ball. Even when I chanced to hit it I could never see where it went and might finally spy it in some impossibly unreachable place in the midst of some rocks and trees. Disgusted as I was at my own ineptitude, I realized that I had a pretty good time. I am very fortunate to still be curious and realize that there is great pleasure in finding things out. Let Trump play golf, let Biden run to the microphone. I need not do these things and can happily ignore the golf instructions. I can be happy looking to the future, thinking about getting the right dog, and finding out about this final chapter of my life and enjoying my granddaughter, a true gift from God in whom or what I never believed. It is a great pleasure to understand that there is much that I do not understand. There is still time. MERRY CHRISTMAS?

DICK POLMAN



CAN DISEASE-SPREADING DOLTS BE REASONED WITH?

I suppose this is progress: On Sunday, Trump's vaccine "czar," Moncef Slaoui, endorsed President-elect Biden's plan to ask all Americans to wear masks during his first 100 days. Slaoui's said, "I think it's a good idea... We all need to take our precaution, have our masks... We will not all have the vaccine in our arms before May or June. So we need to be very cautious and vigilant."

Alas, and oh so predictably, Slaoui's message was undercut 24 hours later by his lame-duck boss, who proceeded to violate CDC guidelines by hosting a maskless ceremony in the Oval Office. How many more people will he kill on his way out?

He's our most prominent menace to public health, but he's hardly alone.

Two random examples: Last week, a viral photo showed maskless patrons of a popular D.C. bar whooping it up in tight quarters, all of them exercising their God-given freedom to infect. And last month, out in Oregon, a high-profile doctor named Steven LaTulippe appeared at a Trump rally and told the cultists to "take off the mask off shame" (few wore masks anyway). He also boasted that none of his clinic staffers wore masks. The cultists cheered for that one. (The state has since suspended LaTulippe's medical license, so now he's a martyr.)

You have to wonder how many more deaths and hospitalizations and illnesses and quarantines we must endure, on the cusp of our darkest winter, before the selfish idiots among us finally recognize their responsibility to their fellow citizens. Actually, I remember pondering that question when the death toll hit 1,000. But now it's 280,000, and I'm pondering anew not just because that stat is so horrific, but because one of my pen pals – a reader – has emailed me a blast of ignorance that epitomizes the worst of America.

He signed the email "Beowulf," so let's call him that. Beowulf was upset with a recent column where I criticized Scott Atlas, Trump's incompetent (and now-departed) coronavirus adviser. After a few insults, Beowulf wrote:

"You are without objectivity. One example; where in this piece is the switching positions of both Fauci and the concerning masks? Why do you not say why he was originally against them? And do you know that the average mask mesh size compared to virus size is the same as that of a chain link fence and a swarm of flies?"

This is what we're up against, folks. People like Beowulf are still assailing Anthony Fauci for what he initially said about masks way back on March 8. They're still mimicking Trump's fake claim that Fauci was against masks – whereas, in truth, Fauci was trying to prevent a mask shortage for health workers.

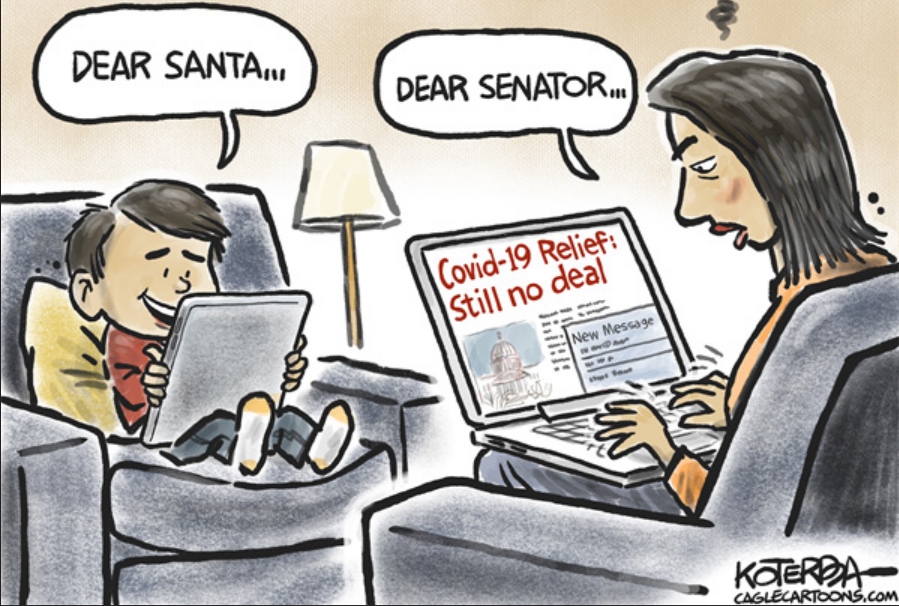
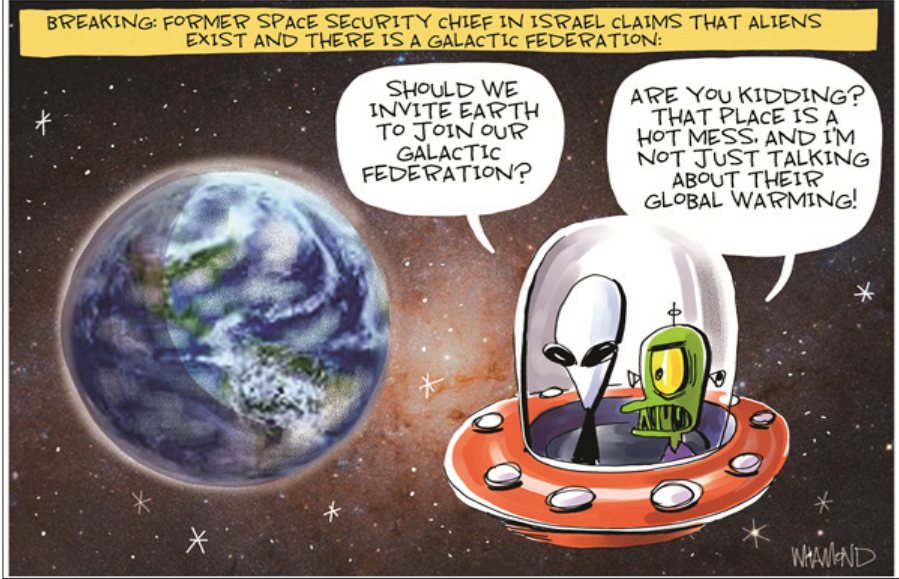
Also, at that time, the extent of asymptomatic spread was unknown. But as health authorities learned more – about the spread of the disease and the efficacy of masks – their recommendations changed. That's called science. The CDC endorsed masks for the general public on April 3, and Fauci has confirmed that in countless interviews ever since.

Beowulf's other argument – that the virus passes through masks with the ease of insects flying through "a chain link fence" – is a viral Facebook lie that's persistently popular among deniers. But infectious disease expert Brian Labus, a member of Nevada's coronavirus task force, had the best response:

"First, the viral particles don't leave your mouth at that size. They start out larger and shrink due to evaporation. Second, they don't come out in a nice, single-file line with the ability to navigate the mask. They all come out together, bang into each other, hit the mask and so on. Lots of them get caught. That's the idea. Go sneeze on a window screen and see how much crap is left on it. Same idea. It doesn't have to be perfect – we are talking about risk reduction, not risk elimination. Quit your bulls— and put on your mask."

That last part is what I told Beowulf, quoting Labus. I shared Labus' refutation of the chain link lie, and explained Fauci's stance on masks. You might be tempted to ask me whether Beowulf was swayed by my response, but you know the answer. As Thomas Paine famously said, "To argue with a man who has renounced the use and authority of reason... is like administering medicine to the dead." Thanks to science, there's hope on the horizon. But alas, there's no vaccination against ignorance.

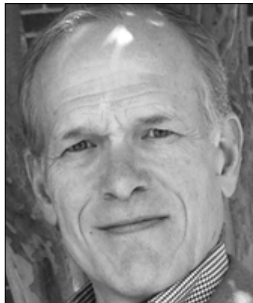
Dick Polman, a veteran national political columnist based in Philadelphia and a Writer in Residence at the University of Pennsylvania, writes at DickPolman.net. Email him at dickpolman7@gmail.com



LEFT, RIGHT OR CENTER!

MICHAEL SHANNON

LONG PAST TIME FOR CONSERVATIVES TO ABANDON THE GO



It's my fervent hope the two Georgia Senate runoff elections are the last time conservatives will be forced to vote for Republicans because no conservative alternatives exist. For over 30 years conservatives have been told by the rich who run the Republican party that we have no choice but to hold our nose and vote for candidates who will turn on us immediately after they're sworn into office.

Republican election victories don't mean conservatives will win anything. It only means conservatives will lose slower. Compare what Obama did for his base during his eight years in office with what Republicans have done through the decades.

William Voegeli, senior editor of the Claremont Review, refreshes our memory: "Since 1994 Republicans controlled both houses of Congress and the presidency for 12 years, and never once during that time did the party ever zero out funding for the National Endowment for the Arts or the Corporation for Public Broadcasting."

"If the low-hanging fruit in Washington is always higher than the tallest Republican ladder, then something is fundamentally wrong. If the conservative high priests don't take limited government seriously, why should the voters?"

GOP government is only limited when it comes to issues conservatives care about.

The conservative base cares about immigration, jobs, culture and family. Donald Trump beat a field of candidates former Republican George Will called the most talented since 1980 because Trump ran on issues relevant to the conservative base.

And the GOP establishment hated him for it. Trump had two years with complete control of Congress. And what did Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell do? They looked smug, superior and blocked Trump at every opportunity.

Now that Trump may be leaving office it's business as usual. Republicans can hardly wait to repudiate Trump's issues and his voters. Senators John Cornyn and Susan Collins, who both just rode the Trump re-election wave, want to grant amnesty to DACA illegals as a first step toward "immigration reform." What that means is total amnesty for up to 30 million illegals.

Republican Rep. Tom Reed says now "pragmatic" lawmakers will rise to the top, which is code for big-spending RINOs sponsoring corporate pork bills.

And last week I wrote about how every single Republican in the Senate voted unanimously to let U.S. corporations import more low-wage foreign tech workers to take the jobs of middle class U.S. citizens.

After that final outrage Pedro Gonzalez, assistant editor of American Greatness, tweeted, "Burn the GOP down." Yes, and I'll supply the \$2.00-a-gallon Trump gasoline. The Republican party is beyond reform.

It is too entrenched. Too corrupt. And too wealthy. I used to think over time conservatives could beat RINOs in primaries. I was wrong.

Republicans are wholly owned by large corporate donors who are leftists socially and tax Scrooges. Incumbents cannot be beaten in Republican primaries because there are no large conservative billionaires to fund challengers. We don't have a George Soros or a Tom Steyer.

Two years ago I had hope for a free market primary solution from the innovative Norbert Richter. He founded FireYourCongressman.com. Richter's fund pooled money from small contributors and when a qualified challenger arose donations were made in the form of a direct contributions and independent expenditures. It was the first free market effort to fund term limits. It was a great idea. And it failed because Richter wasn't rich.

In the 2018 cycle FireYourCongressman raised \$103,306.00. In the 2020 cycle he raised \$16,655.00. The failure wasn't because the conservative base is cheap.

Near the mid-point of the 2020 campaign the cocktail conservatives in Congress were outraged that small-donors had provided more than half of Trump's billion-dollar war chest and 56 percent of those contributions were in grocery-money sized checks of less than \$200. Conservatives will contribute to conservative candidates if they are aware they exist.

It's Curator of the Senate Mitch McConnell's mission to make sure genuine conservatives stay unknown and unfunded.

One conservative Trump supporter even tried a lawsuit. Bob Heghmann, a Virginia Beach, VA retired lawyer sued the national and Virginia GOP contending Republicans "[have] been engaged in a pattern of Racketeering which involves massive fraud perpetrated on Republican voters."

Heghmann added, "Republicans could have repealed and replaced Obamacare with two-page bill. But the leadership never intended to do it."

That didn't work either. The Republican party is a collection of morally corrupt corporate tools who protect their donors at the expense of their voters. It cannot be reformed. A double RINO victory in Georgia will buy conservatives enough time to start building their own conservative party from the ground up.

Let's send a message in January: This one and we're done.

Michael Shannon is a commentator and public relations consultant, and is the author of "A Conservative Christian's Guidebook for Living in Secular Times." He can be reached at man-date.mmpr@gmail.com.



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