

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre Arcadia Duarte Monrovia Pasadena Altadena South Pasadena San Marino

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020

VOLUME 14 NO. 51

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-Katie & Jen



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!



Artist Sonny Salsbury created this painting depicting snow in Sierra Madre at Christmas. His caption, "Wouldn't It Be Nice?" reflects the sentiments of many a child and adult alike. Salsbury is also a Grammy nominated musician who was born in Pasadena. He is the brother of local businesswoman Judith Brandley, owner of Leonora Moss in Sierra Madre.

A Christmas Meditation

We are embarking on a Christmas season unlike any other in our lifetime. So much is different. In a time when we usually are festive and joyous, many are experiencing isolation, stress and anxiety. Families are staying at home, worship will be restrained and different, and of course, many families will be mourning the loss of loved ones. But I am encouraged by glimmers of hope and joy here and there. I find great comfort in the music of this time of year.

The hymns and carols of Advent and Christmas have the ability to carry us beyond the constraints of time and place in ways that can join us to God's plan of salvation. One such hymn is the familiar "O little town of Bethlehem." First introduced in 1868, it was penned by Philips Brooks (1835-1893) who later became the Episcopal Bishop of Massachusetts. While in the midst of the Civil War, Brooks spent a year travelling in England, Europe and the Holy Land. In 1865 he found himself worshipping in Bethlehem in the Church of the Holy Nativity on Christmas Eve. From that experience, we have "O little town of Bethlehem."

One of the beauties of the hymn is that it takes us, wherever we are, from the here and now to the moment when God is offering Divine Love. The fact is that the here and now of December of 2020 in Sierra Madre seems so distant from the Bethlehem of that blessed night. The hymn calls us, invites us, to place ourselves in the midst of God's redeeming action of Love. We can in our hearts place ourselves in Bethlehem and the span of years falls away. The text does not diminish the hard reality of our own time and place, but places God's action of love right smack in the middle of a dark night "where misery cries out." And as we sing, we remember the Good News and enter into that Divine Love - we ask the holy Child to be born in us in our own here and now.

I take comfort in the knowledge that Christmas of 2021 will be different from Christmas this year. We will be able to be together again, and we will be able to sing together the joyful hymns and carols of Christmas. Rest assured, "the hopes and fears of all the years" are joined in God's love in Christ regardless of time and place.

The Very Reverend Canon Michael Bamberger
Episcopal Church of the Ascension

SIERRA MADRE'S TECHNO SANTA



Not even COVID-19 can dampen the Christmas spirit in Sierra Madre. Keeping socially distant, Santa made his rounds in the city Friday night. Some changes were definitely in order so the Sierra Madre Police and Fire Departments magically turned their vehicles into sleighs for Santa. As he toured the streets he took notes and pictures too! No more making a list and checking it twice....no sirree, Santa 2020 had his cell in hand as he waved to residents outside their homes. The only person that was noticeably absent was.....Police Chief Rod Armalin.....hmmmm or was he?!



**It's Time To
Vote For The
Best Sierra
Madre Holiday
Decorations!**

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

Winners will be featured in our special Christmas Edition on December 26, 2020.

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

**VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE! SEND THE ADDRESS TO:
SierraMadreEvents@aol.com before 10 pm Christmas Eve.**



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INSIDE MOUNTAIN VIEWS NEWS THIS WEEK

COVID 19 UPDATES.....PAGE 7

SIERRA MADRE NEWS.....Pgs 3, 4

PASADENA NEWS.....Page 5

ARCADIA/MONROVIA & MORE.....Page 6

AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY.....Page 7

EDUCATION & YOUTH.....Page 9

BEST FRIENDS.....Page 10

THE GOOD LIFE.....Page 11

OPINION.....Page 12

LEGAL NOTICES.....Page 14

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mtnviewsnews.com

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- 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 CAREJOIN 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

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SENIOR COMMISSION VIRTUAL HUGS



Senior Commission Chair Pat Holland (center), and Commissioners Sally Olson and Joann Williams on his left and right respectively, send a socially distanced, masked up group hug to the community after their annual holiday event.

On Thursday, Dec. 17 from 11:00 a.m. to about 1:30 p.m. the Community Services Department with the Senior Services Commission celebrated the modified Holiday Meal Distribution at the Hart Park House. In normal years, the Commission would have a Holiday Luncheon Celebration but because of Covid 19 they could not do. Instead, with the approval of the City, members of the Commission were able to attend the meal distribution event and hand out gifts to all of those in attendance.

Photo Courtesy Sierra Madre Senior Commission



CITY HALL HOLIDAY CLOSURES

12/23 - CITY HALL CLOSED AT NOON

12/24 TO 1/1 - CITY HALL CLOSED

City Hall will be closed for the holidays. Public Safety and Public Works will still be working during this time. No inspections or permits will be available during the break.

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

November 29, to December 13, 2020

During this period the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to 334 calls for service.



Attempted Burglary

On 12-3-20 at two male suspects attempted to burglarize a house. The suspects were previously seen in the area on two separate days. The suspects and vehicle were the same vehicle from another call for service with similar circumstances.

Suspects were arrested in a neighboring city and taken to Pasadena Jail. Case to Detectives

Theft from a vehicle

Sometime between 12-5-20 at 1:00PM and 12/6/20 at 8:15AM, unknown person(s) removed the tailgate from A Nissan Truck parked in the 100 block of S. Baldwin Ave. Case to Detectives

Fraud

On 12-7-20 a resident reported that he was the victim of fraud by sending \$2,500.00 via gift cards, purchased at various local stores to unknown suspect(s). The suspect would give the resident instructions by phone following a pop up alert that there were security issues on his MAC lap top computer. Case to Detectives

Theft from vehicle

A resident discovered at 9:00AM, on 12-8-20, that his unlocked truck, parked in the 100 block of Esperanza Ave. had been ransacked and personal items were stolen. Case to Detectives

Vehicle

A vehicle burglary occurred sometime between 12-7-20 and 12-8-20 in the rear parking lot in the 100 block of W. Sierra Madre Blvd. The victim stated that his pickup truck had the rear window shattered and that a bag with industrial tools had been stolen by unknown suspect(s). Case to Detectives

Burglary

A vehicle burglary occurred sometime between 12-7-20 and 12-8-20 in the rear parking lot in the 100 block of W. Sierra Madre Blvd. The victim stated that his pickup truck had the rear window shattered and that a bag with industrial tools had been stolen by unknown suspect(s). Case to Detectives



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<https://www.facebook.com/BethanyCSM>

WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

ARE YOU READY FOR CHRISTMAS?

"Nothing ever seems too bad, too hard, or too sad when you've got a Christmas tree in the living room." Nora Roberts

"Christmas is not a time, nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas." Calvin Coolidge

"Christmas gifts suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To every child, a good example. To all, charity. To yourself, respect."

As I'm writing Walking Sierra Madre today, it has just dawned on me that Christmas is a week from Friday! I'm decorated. I put all the Christmas ornaments the children made in Sunday School through the years right at the front of the tree. The little hands pressed into plaster of paris, are there, too, along with the pictures mounted in bread dough frames, the bead ornaments Leah made one year, the red globes that date from the beginning of our marriage, some fifty+ years ago...I guess they are now valuable antiques. They are also somewhat cracked and crazed (which, occasionally, our marriage was, too) but they are precious in my sight.



I wrote a Christmas letter and sent out a few Christmas cards, I'm still trying to find iPads for Jessie and Emily that don't cost more than a new Lexus. Amazon.com will let you print gift cards on your own personal printer and several of the small people in our family are getting those. Grandchildren William, Catherine, Caleb and Brady are gifting chickens and a goat to people in places like Zambia through World Vision. Daughter, Patti, and her family are keeping John's vision for clean water for everyone alive with their gift, also through World Vision.

We've talked about what to serve for Christmas Day and I'm pushing for ham, creamed spinach, Helen's Lime Jell-o Salad, and maybe some cranberry bread. Here's that Lime Jell-o Salad in case you wanted something easy, pretty and delicious to go with your Christmas dinner:

1 large package lime jell-o
4 cups boiling water
24 oz can crushed pineapple (drained)
1 Tb. Lemon juice
4 cups baby marshmallows
1 8 oz. Container whipping cream, whipped with just a little powdered sugar. Or, use about one and a half containers of Cool Whip or till you like how it looks.

Put the jell-o in whatever you're planning to serve this in. Add the boiling water, lemon juice, and the juice from the pineapple. Stir in the marshmallows and continue stirring till the jell-o is dissolved.

Refrigerate. Keep a close eye on this as you don't want it to jell all the way, but just till it's firm enough to add other ingredients. Add the pineapple and the whipped cream, stirring well to get all the jell-o off the bottom of the mold and mixed into the whipped cream.

Refrigerate till it's totally set.

You can add nuts to this but only if everybody who's going to eat it likes nuts. Otherwise, you have to watch them carefully picking the nuts out and setting them dramatically on another dish... usually accompanied by shuddering. We haven't had nuts in our salad for years and years but I think about them every year somewhat nostalgically as the salad really is better with nuts...walnuts or pecans.

You can, of course, use a small package of jell-o, and use half of the other ingredients to make a nice small salad.

Am I ready for Christmas?

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord...Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.' Luke 2:8-13

Yes, I'm ready for Christmas and I'm sure you are, too.

"On a night like this, centuries ago,
A brilliant star rose in the East,
To show the Wise Men where to go.
They set out on a journey,
To find an unknown King.
Their hearts were filled with happiness
And praises they would sing!"

("A Night Like This" from "Star of Wonder - A Christmas Musical"
Book & Lyrics by Deanne Davis, Music by David Wheatley)

Merry Christmas, dear friends!
May God bless you and keep you and make his face to shine upon you, give you peace...and joy,

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

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis
Christmas is just a few days 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>



SOCIAL DISTANCING

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.


GFWC Sierra Madre Woman's Club


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Merry Christmas





Happy Hanukkah


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Sierra Madre Woman's Club


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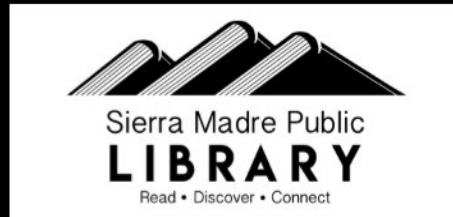
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The Library Is Sus—Online at 3:00pm; call the Library to register

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Teen Game Night—Online at 6:00pm; call the Library to register

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Saturday

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Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

Pasadena Gets First Doses of Covid-19 Vaccine

The Pasadena Public Health Department (PPHD) announced Friday that it has received 1,950 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. This shipment was delivered directly to Huntington Hospital, and vaccinations are expected to begin tomorrow. Additional Moderna vaccine doses are expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

Healthcare workers and residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities will be the first to receive the vaccine. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine require two doses and provide the same efficacy. PPHD is managing the vaccine distribution process and will be following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health.

The city has the infrastructure to both store and distribute the vaccines. Vaccine distribution is a normal function of PPHD. Every year, team members practice for emergency vaccine distribution by conducting mass vaccination events such as free flu vaccine clinics. When the COVID-19 vaccine is made available to the general public, it will be provided at no charge; it will be paid for by the federal government or by one's insurance company.

"We are excited for these safe and effective vaccines to arrive in Pasadena, and I want to thank Huntington Hospital and all of our partners who are helping distribute the vaccine in an equitable and efficient manner," said Dr. Ying-Ying Goh, health officer and director of Pasadena Public Health Department. "Although the arrival of vaccines has given a lot of hope, we are still seeing an upward trend of an alarming surge in cases, hospitalizations, and sadly more deaths. It's up to each and every one of us to do our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19."

As COVID-19 infections continue to rise in the community, residents are strongly urged to keep following the Regional Stay-at-Home Order, which requires everyone to stay home as much as possible and avoid in-person contact with people from other households. People should also avoid travelling for the holidays and follow the "Three Ws": Wear a face covering when outside your home; Watch your distance by avoiding gatherings and close contact with non-household members; and Wash your hands often. For more information about the city of Pasadena visit: cityofpasadena.net.



City Council Votes to Rejoin SGVCOG

The Pasadena city council voted unanimously Monday in favor of rejoining the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, after former Mayor Terry Tornek abruptly led an effort in 2018 to withdraw membership over the 710 Freeway tunnel. Rejoining will cost the city \$121,660.94 in back fees.

"I do think it is important to rejoin the COG, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments," said newly elected Pasadena Mayor, Victor Gordo. "There are 31 cities in the San Gabriel Valley, at the moment only 30 are working together on important issues, transportation, homelessness, housing, water, all of the issues that we gravel with in Pasadena. The COG is not going to solve all those problems but it's an important tool that we should be a part of."

According to Pasadena City Manager Steve Mermell, in

March 2018 the city formally withdrew from the SGVCOG because it was going in a different direction regarding the SR 710 Freeway.

Members of the public also agreed that the city should rejoin.

"While policy differences led to Pasadena's withdrawal, there are compelling reasons outlined in the staff report for Pasadena to be an active leader..." said Pasadena resident and COG volunteer Rick Cole. "The challenges and opportunities facing Pasadena (e.g., climate change, economic recovery, housing affordability, public health and public safety) do not end at our city borders."

Mermell said the back membership dues were not punitive or aimed only at Pasadena. He said this is a standard practice for Council of Governments.

Councilmember Steve Madison

said, "I think is regrettable... we have to pay dues now... it really shows the folly of having simply pulled out because we missed all that collaborative governance that we could have been participating in, in cities that might have disagreed with us."

Gordo had campaigned for mayor on a promise to rejoin SGVCOG, an issue that was always at odds during debates with Tornek.

Gordo Announces New Council Committee Assignments

In his first official act as mayor of Pasadena, Victor Gordo has announced new committee assignments for all members of City Council.

City councilmembers serve on various intergovernmental committees during their term in office. These assignments are reviewed and modified annually following the swearing in of new councilmembers.

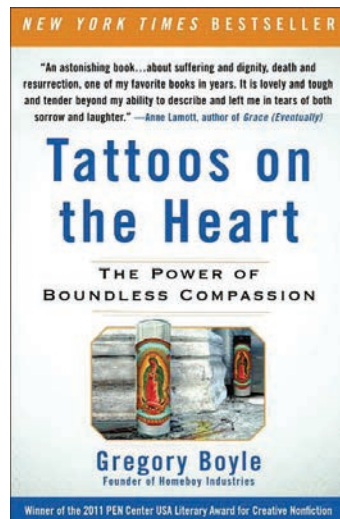
Gordo has appointed District 1 Councilmember Tyron Hampton to chair the Economic Development & Technology Committee, which meets the third Tuesday of each month. The mayor has also appointed District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison and Vice Mayor and District 7 Councilmember Andy Wilson to serve on the committee.

Gordo will chair the Finance Committee, which meets the second and fourth Monday of each month. He has appointed Vice Mayor Wilson, District 3 Councilmember John J. Kennedy, and new District 2 Councilmember Felicia Williams to join him in serving on the Finance Committee. Councilmember Madison has been appointed to chair the Legislative Policy Committee, which meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. He will be joined by the mayor and District 4 Councilmember Gene Masuda.

Gordo has appointed Vice Mayor Wilson to chair the Municipal Services Committee, which meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Councilmembers Hampton and Williams have also been appointed to serve on the Municipal Services Committee.

Finally, Gordo will serve as chair of the Public Safety Committee, which meets the first Monday and third Wednesday of each month. The mayor has also appointed Councilmembers Hampton, Kennedy and Madison to serve on the committee.

Pasadena One City, One Story Selections Announced



Pasadena Public Library announced last week their two book selections for Pasadena's 2021 One City, One Story community reading celebration. Tattoos on the Heart by author Father Gregory Joseph Boyle, S. J. is the 2021 One City, One Story selection and Leave Only Footprints: My Acadia - To - Zion Journey Through Every National Park by author Conor Knighton is the 2021 One City, One Story Summer Edition.

Now in its 19th year, One City, One Story is designed to broaden and deepen an appreciation of reading and literature and to promote tolerance and understanding of differing points of view by recommending a compelling book that engages the community in conversation. This year's theme is "Books for our Times."

Tattoos on the Heart is a series of parables about kinship and redemption from pastor, activist and renowned speaker Father Gregory Boyle. In this, his debut book, he distills his experience working with gang members into a breathtaking series of stories inspired by faith. Tattoos on the Heart reminds us that no life is less valuable than another.

Founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world, Father Boyle has dedicated his life to helping the most marginalized individuals find a place in society. In a moving example of unconditional love in difficult times, the Jesuit priest and bestselling author

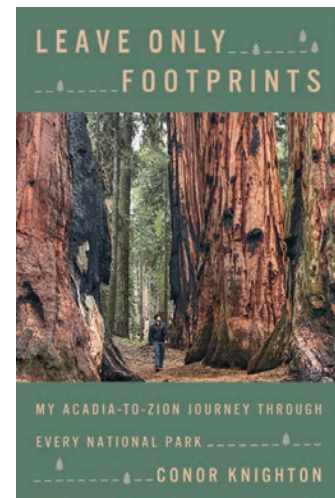
of Tattoos on the Heart and Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship shares what three decades of working with gang members in Los Angeles have taught him about faith, compassion and the enduring power of kinship.

One City, One Story community programs will be held throughout March, with a virtual conversation with the author on Sunday afternoon, March 14, 2021, at 2 p.m.

The One City, One Story Summer Edition, Leave Only Footprints: My Acadia - To - Zion Journey Through Every National Park by Conor Knighton is a behind-the-scenes look at his year traveling to each of America's National Parks, discovering the most beautiful places and most interesting people our country has to offer.

Knighton is an Emmy-winning correspondent for CBS Sunday Morning, America's #1 Sunday morning news program. Depending on your cable package, you may have also seen him hosting shows on Current TV, AMC, and The Biography Channel or providing commentary for the likes of MTV, E!, and CNN. He has been to all of America's national parks and what feels like 40 percent of its Hampton Inns.

Copies of the books are available for checkout from the Library in eBook or book format and may be picked up via curbside service. For more information on One City, One Story visit: cityofpasadena.libguides.com/onecityonestory.



E-Waste Recycling Event Today

Residents can safely dispose of electronic waste and have personal and business documents shredded at the Department of Public Works' free e-waste event today, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held in Parking Lot I outside Rose Bowl Stadium near Brookside Park, 360 North Arroyo Blvd.

Signs will be posted directing visitors to the event.

E-waste items include computers, keyboards, printers, monitors, laptops, docking stations, scanners, shredders, fax machines, computer mice, phones, televisions, VCRs, DVD players, PDAs, cassette

players, tape drives, stereos and household batteries. Many of these products have parts that can be recycled.

The Department of Public Works is also helping residents prevent identity theft by providing free paper shredding during the event. The public can bring a maximum of three (3) legal-size boxes for shredding.

Event participants will be required to show proof of Pasadena residency, and COVID-19 public health safety protocols will be in place. For more information, visit: cityofpasadena.net/PublicWorks or call (626) 744-7311.

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From Arcadia Police Department

COMMUNITY: MAIL/PACKAGE THEFT ALERT: 3 ARRESTED FOR PACKAGE/MAIL THEFT TODAY. REMAIN VIGILANT.

The holidays are just around the corner and many of us will have a higher number of packages delivered this year due to the pandemic. The Arcadia Police Department wants to remind our residents, businesses and others to remain vigilant with your package and mail deliveries.

Earlier today we arrested 3 suspects for stealing packages. Unfortunately for them, one of those packages was one of our GPS Tracker Packages. When they were arrested, they were in possession of other stolen packages and mail from Arcadia and surrounding cities.

Here are a few tips to prevent mail and package theft:

- Once a package or your mail is delivered, bring it in as soon as possible.
- If you aren't going to be home, have the package rescheduled or delivered to a neighbor, friend or family member who will be home.
- Have your package delivered to your work
- Put a lock on your mailbox

Please do your part to prevent these thefts.

Finally, we remind you if you see something or someone suspicious, call us as soon as possible. #SeeSomethingSaySomething

SCE TO CONDUCT POWER POLE REPLACEMENTS USING A HELICOPTER IN MONROVIA

Residents may notice helicopter activity in the area above the Hillside Wilderness Preserve on Tuesday, December 22 and Monday, December 28 as SCE conducts infrastructure work. The team from SCE identified two power poles within the hillside area that are in need of a priority replacement. The catch with these replacements is that they are accessible only by helicopter. The work will take place during normal business hours on December 22 and 28.

Other than the visual and audible impacts from the helicopters, most residents will not be impacted by these activities. There are a couple of residents in and around the Hillside Wilderness Preserve that may have power interruptions and accessibility impacts; however, they will be contacted directly by SCE and City Staff. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Public Works at (626) 932-5575 or pwcomments@ci.monrovia.ca.us.

MONROVIA 2020 HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

The City of Monrovia is excited to announce the winners of the 2020 Holiday Home Decorating Contest and Old Town Monrovia Window Decorating Contest.

HOME CONTEST WINNERS

- Best Still Display: 2102 S. Myrtle Avenue
- Best Outdoor Display: 633 King Street
- Most Effective use of Lighting: 276 N. Primrose Avenue
- Best Neighborhood Effort: 517 Valmont Place & Valmont Drive
- Santa's Workshop Award: 333 Norumbega Drive
- Holiday Spirit Award: 1510 Pilgrim Way
- Judge's Award: 209 S. Sunset Place
- Children's Choice Award: 826 Ocean View Avenue

BUSINESS CONTEST WINNERS

- Best Overall Display: House of Windsor, 526 S. Myrtle Avenue
- Most Creative Display: Saint Clark Bridal, 519 S. Myrtle Avenue
- Best Holiday Display: Douglas Elliman Real Estate, 517 S. Myrtle Avenue
- Judge's Award: Monrovia Floral, 119 E. Olive Avenue
- Most Spectacular Display: CiviltecEngineering, 118 W. Lime Avenue

Catch breaking news at:
mtnviewsnews.com

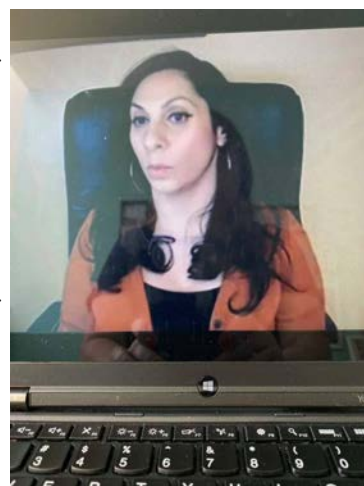
CREATIVE SUPPORT FOR KIDS

Naelh Othman continues to have a passion for service to kids. In her role as Director of Student Services, Naelh also has responsibility for homeless and foster youth within the Duarte Unified School District.

There are currently 126 homeless youth and 28 foster youth within DUSD. Naelh and her team maintain contact with each of these students to determine their needs and what services can be provided to ensure their educational requirements are met. Naelh has created a unique Memorandum of Understanding with ACTS Thriftstore in Pasadena.

Folks can donate to the ACTS Thrift store (www.ACTSthrift.org) in DUSD's name. This way, Naelh can provide the kids in need with a certificate to purchase needed items from ACTS. The Duarte Kiwanis continues to support Naelh's CHIK (Community Homeless Initiative for Kids) through donations of money as well and will be presenting a check for \$400.00 for this effort.

If you are interested in joining the Duarte Kiwanis or presenting at a future meeting, please contact Tina Carey at tinac51@aol.com. The club is currently meeting virtually through Zoom.



Even though you need help each day, we agree that you're still in charge

Many seniors fear that moving out of their home into an assisted living residence means forfeiting control of their lives. At The Kensington, nothing could be further from the truth. We believe it is our role to support our residents, not to assume complete decision-making authority. Of course, as specialists in caring for older adults, we monitor routines, behavior and mood every day. If we see changes that concern us, then we talk with residents and their families immediately. Together, we all decide about making adjustments to care and services to preserve comfort, wellness and morale.

We regard ourselves as our residents' champion, not their boss.
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South Pasadena Holiday Safety

With the holiday season upon us, the South Pasadena Police Department remind its residents of the importance of staying alert and vigilant. As pleasurable activities such as shopping and traveling increase during this time of year, so too does the potential for crimes to occur. Recent incidents highlight the need for the Police Department and community to work together to avoid confusion during tense and uncertain situations.

We believe a team approach to public safety concerns can be extremely effective.

The Police Department has not only increased patrols around areas of traditional concern including vacant properties, businesses, and residential neighborhoods, but it continues to share informational resources and monitor activities with



neighboring agencies in order to prepare for potential crime trends. Circulating relevant information considered pertinent to our residents continues to be accomplished via our Neighborhood Watch Program and social media assets.

We ask our residents to remain aware and attentive to their surroundings and report any suspicious activity. These efforts serve to improve coordination and response to our crime prevention efforts throughout the year.

Letter: Reminder To San Marino Pet Owners - Be A Good Neighbor

Dear San Marino Residents,

We have received from residents of the community regarding dog waste left on private and public property. There has been an increased volume of dog waste that has been found on the common areas owned by the City as well as on the private front and side lawns of residents.

If you are a dog owner, please be respectful of your neighbors' property as well as the public grounds of the City. In case you are not aware, City of San Marino Law (06.05.05) requires that pet owners pick up after their pets and properly dispose of their waste. Furthermore, animal fecal matter serves as a food source for rats and will encourage a rat infestation if it accumulates on the grounds of our neighborhoods. A rat infestation, once it is established is a health hazard in itself and is very difficult to completely extinguish.

All dog owners are urged to abide by the law so that the unsightly and unhealthy appearance of dog waste on the grounds can be eliminated. Please be reminded that pet owners who fail to abide by the City Law can be subject Code Enforcement action. If you observe a dog walker not picking up after the dog's waste, please report it to the City immediately and if possible, please take a photo of the person and the dog with a cell phone or camera as the photo may be very useful in identifying the violator. Residents are also encouraged to use the GoGov application, which can be downloaded directly on your mobile device.

All residents are asked to take pride in the community by adhering to the City rules and laws regarding disposal of pet waste. If all pet owners within the community practice proper pet waste disposal as mentioned above, the eyesore and health hazard created by pet waste on the grounds can be eliminated. The City thanks you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,
Aldo Cervantes
Community Development Director

South Pasadena Toys for Tots

The South Pasadena Fire Department, ABC7, Toys for Tots, and Southern California firefighters are celebrating the 28th year of the Spark of Love Toy Drive! Firefighters and Marines will be joining together to collect and distribute new, unwrapped toys and sports equipment for underserved children and teens in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, Ventura, and Riverside counties. Over the years, the Spark of Love Toy Drive has successfully collected and distributed more than nine million toys. Our goal is to exceed last year's collection of over 500,000 toys. The 2020 Spark of Love Toy Drive will run now through

Thursday, December 24, 2020.

Toy Donations Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, this year's Spark of Love Toy Drive is transitioning to a virtual platform and accepting donations through an online partnership with MyRegistry.com. As a result, supporting the Spark of Love Toy Drive has never been quicker, easier, or safer! Please use the link below to donate to South Pasadena Fire Department. Go to: myregistry.com/wishlist/spark-of-love-toy-drive-south-pasadena-ca/2624555. When ordering please use the yellow highlighted link in this post, and copy the delivery address listed below when you check out.

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,

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).

Winter REC-tivity Bags

The Recreation Division is proud to offer Winter REC-tivity bags to help youth stay busy this Winter break!

Registration begins Monday, December 7, 2020 at 8am
COST: \$5 per REC-tivity Bag
SPACE IS LIMITED

REC-tivity Bags will be available for drive thru pick-up on
Monday, December 21, 2020
Time: 11am to 1pm
Location: South Pasadena Senior Center
1102 Oxley Street, South Pasadena
Enter drive thru pick-up line off Fairview Avenue & Oxley Street

AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

MWD “WATER IS LIFE” STUDENT ART CALENDAR WINNERS

Foothill Municipal Water District (FMWD) is pleased to announce three works of art from students in the District’s service area will be included in the 2021 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California “Water is Life” Student Art Calendar. The works of art are amongst thirty-seven featured in the calendar submitted from six counties in southern California. Twenty-six water agencies throughout Southern California participated in the art contest with hundreds of submissions.

The students are as follows by grade level.

Olivia Hur, 6th Grade, Rosemont Middle School
Tali Sherwood, 10th Grade, Crescenta Valley High School
Heidy Hur, 11th Grade, Crescenta Valley High School

The students were recognized virtually via Metropolitan’s online webinar on Thursday, December 17. The theme of the 2021 Student Art Calendar Contest, “Water is Life,” relates to the stewardship and conservation of water. This means protecting our water resources for future generations through conservation and education.

In California, about 50% of residential water consumption goes towards landscape irrigation. FMWD and MWD can help community members improve water resiliency through turf removal. Currently, MWD is offering a rebate of \$2.00 per square foot up to 5,000 square feet of converted yard per year. A potential \$10,000 in rebate! For more landscape transformation information, please visit [SocalWaterSmart.com](https://www.socalwatersmart.com) or call Michael Le at 818-790-4036, mle@fmwd.com.



CALIFORNIA POISON CONTROL WARNS ABOUT HOLIDAY MARIJUANA EDIBLES

Many states have legalized marijuana for medicinal or recreational use by adults. This holiday season, California Poison Control System (CPCS) reminds all adults to practice caution when using or serving cannabis-containing edible items such as cookies, candies, pastries or beverages during holiday events and New Year’s celebrations. These items should not be prepared or served when children or teens are present in order to minimize the risk of accidental exposure. The risk increases with edibles because children love holiday goodies and brightly colored items. See edibles video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-INP8IA9hPA>. “Children can be exposed to marijuana either by breathing in smoke or eating foods containing marijuana,” said Dr. Cyrus Rangan, Assistant Medical Director, CPCS Los Angeles. “Keep your home and car free of the smoke, and keep food or drinks in their original containers locked up away from young

children or teens. Kids and cannabis don’t mix. Treat these products just like you would alcoholic beverages — use caution and common sense.” Edibles can contain high amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol or THC, the chemical that causes someone to get high. While adults typically exhibit dizziness, weakness, slurred speech and anxiety, symptoms in children can be more severe. They can range from sleepiness to difficulty breathing or even coma. Emergency rooms and poison control centers have received many cases of young children who accidentally ate marijuana edibles and required hospital admission due to the severity of their symptoms. Dr. Rangan advises that if there’s a chance a child has accidentally consumed marijuana-containing products, call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222 so a trained specialist can answer specific questions and/or guide callers to an emergency facility.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE 12/17/2020

12/17/2020 3:30pm

LOS ANGELES COUNTY*	12/17/202	12/11/20
Total Cases	596,721	501,635
Deaths	8,757	8,199

STATS BY CITY	Population	Cases	Deaths
(12/11/2020 stats in parenthesis)			
Pasadena	14,1371	5271 (4536)	142 (138)
Uninc- East Pasadena	6,403	126 (117)	2 (2)
City of Arcadia	57,754	1165 (985)	44 (40)
Uninc. - Arcadia	7,981	238 (184)	3 (3)
City of Bradbury	1,069	30 (30)	0 (0)
City of Duarte	22,016	1093 (957)	41 (37)
Uninc.- Duarte	4,428	457 (383)	5 (4)
City of Monrovia	38,800	1513 (1305)	41 (41)
Uninc - Monrovia	3,881	174 (142)	0 (0)
City of Sierra Madre	10,989	223 (175)	5 (5)
City of So.Pasadena	26,053	614 (561)	28 (28)
Uninc.- Altadena	43,260	3459 (1278)	23 (22)

La County Testing as of 12/17/20: 4,265,009 (4,021,359)
Positivity Rate (No. of persons positive out of total persons tested)
as 12/17/20: 12.8% (12.0) Nationally recommended Positivity Level: 5%

WITH SURGING NUMBER OF DAILY CASES AND HOSPITAL CAPACITY DANGEROUSLY LOW, PUBLIC HEALTH URGES COMPLIANCE TO HEALTH PROTOCOLS

All key Public Health indicators are increasing to record levels. One month ago, on November 12, the 5-day average of cases was 2,134 and today the 5-day average is 10,034; this is an increase of 370% in just one month. The 5-day average of deaths one month ago, on November 12, was 12; today, average daily deaths it’s 62. In just 30 days our deaths have increased 416% across the County. During that same time frame, the positivity rate has increased 141%; today, the daily test positivity rate is 14.2%. And hospitalizations increased 303% in one month; today we are reporting 3,850 COVID-19 hospitalizations, and 22% of COVID-19 patients are in the ICU.

Our daily case numbers are unlike any we have ever seen in our county and reflect extraordinarily high rates of community transmission; activities we were able to do just a few weeks back, now present far too much risk for virus transmission.

In order for us to stop the surge, L.A. County residents will need to use the tools at hand to slow community transmission and reduce the number of infected people. The strategies that work remain the same: no gatherings/events with others outside of your immediate household, always and correctly wear face coverings/masks when around others, and always maintain your physical distance from others who are not from your household. During this surge, everyone should also stay at home except to provide or receive essential services, avoid all non-essential travel, get tested if you have symptoms or an exposure, and isolate immediately from your family and others if you have symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. If we take these actions, we will save lives.

“Each day, as we share this information with you, we know there are people across our community who have suffered tremendous loss. For those mourning the passing of a loved one, we wish you healing and peace,” said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. “This is an extraordinarily challenging time. Hospitals are stressed and filling up with hundreds of new COVID-19 positive patients each day, our healthcare workers are exhausted, and deaths are reaching an all-time high. Actions taken by each of us continue to make or break our collective ability to prevent many people from becoming infected, seriously ill and potentially passing away from COVID-19. While vaccines are around the corner, they will not be here in time to prevent compromising care for seriously ill individuals at our hospitals. Only we can do that by following the public health directives: Stay home except for performing essential work and/or acquiring essential services. Always wear a face covering when out of your house and know that every single time you are with people not in your household you are running a serious risk of being exposed to the virus.”

Of the 68 new deaths reported today, 27 people that passed away were over the age of 80 years old, 23 people who died were between the ages of 65 and 79 years old, 12 people who died were between the ages of 50 and 64 years old, and six people who died were between the ages of 30 and 49 years old. Fifty-two of the 68 deaths reported today were people with underlying health conditions, including 22 people who were over the age of 80 years old, 17 people who were between the ages of 65 and 79 years old, nine people between the ages of 50 and 64 years old, and four people between the ages of 30 and 49 years old.

Ninety-three percent of the people who died from COVID-19 had underlying health conditions. Of those who died, information about race and ethnicity is available for 7,813 people (99 percent of the cases reported by Public Health); 52% of deaths occurred among Latino/Latinx residents, 23% among White residents, 14% among Asian residents, 9% among African American/Black residents, less than 1% among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander residents and 1% among residents identifying with other races.

Testing results are available for more than 4,091,000 individuals with 12% of all people testing positive. Upon further investigation, 239 cases reported earlier were not L.A. County residents.

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

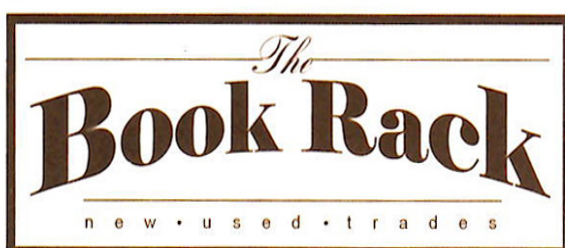
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SIERRA MADRE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL TOY DRIVE NEEDS YOUR HELP!



Happy Holidays! Today Team One and the SMPD kicks off our annual toy drive. We have collection bins in the station lobby for the USMC's Toys for Tots and Pasadena PD's F.A.S.T. Air Support unit. Drop off an unwrapped toy of your choice in the bin of your choice during normal business hours. No stuffed animals please.

COMBATTING THE SERIOUS EFFECTS OF DIGITAL DEVICES DURING COVID-19

(StatePoint) Screen time among children and teens has skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the cold-weather months, when families are more likely to be spending free time indoors, it's especially important that parents and caregivers set schedules to help ensure safe, healthy and balanced use of digital devices, according to experts.

"Digital devices and the internet have become absolutely necessary tools for kids, not only for school, but for connecting and socializing with friends. Unfortunately, these tools can often be used in unhealthy ways to fill a void left by the loss of many typical school-year routines," says Michele Havner, director of marketing, OurPact, a screen time monitoring app for parents.

Research has consistently shown that more screen time is often accompanied by health and wellness challenges like anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, poor sleep and reduced physical activity. Havner says that parents can help kids build healthier relationships with digital devices in the following ways:

- Being good role models: Parents are in many cases relying on digital devices to work from home and may also be facing some of the same issues as their children, including boredom and isolation. However, they can serve as good digital role models by setting aside screen-free time for other activities, like art, cooking, music, exercise, crossword puzzles, reading and more.
- Avoiding being punitive: This extended situation has been stressful for parents and kids alike, so parents should try to take a compassionate approach to the situation. When engaging children on screen use, they can start the conversation on the right foot by acknowledging the many challenges and stressors that the "new normal" has created for young people. This is also a good time to check in about what exactly kids are doing online and whether the uptick in social media use has exposed them to negative content or cyberbullying.
- Setting schedules: Screen use before bed is associated with poor sleep due to the blue light emitted by digital devices, which can delay the release of sleep hormones. If possible, cap screen usage at least 30 minutes before bedtime. While many people like to keep devices on bedside tables, consider turning bedrooms into screen-free zones.

- Making it happen: Devices have become so important to children, they may not realize the negative effects they are having on their health, making getting kids to actually put down devices often easier said than done. In fact, kids will often defy verbal limitations and warnings. Fortunately, parents can get a little outside assistance in making rules stick. One solution is OurPact, a screen monitoring app that allows parents to set online schedules. Using the app, parents can limit app access automatically for recurring activities like school or bedtime, and can block or grant internet access on a child's device. They can even view screenshots of kids' digital activity, helping them swiftly address usage issues like unsafe content and cyberbullying. To learn more or download, visit OurPact.com.

While the new normal has meant an unavoidable uptick in screen time, parents can help kids strike a healthy balance.



EDUCATIONAL TOYS TO SUPPORT AT-HOME LEARNING THIS SCHOOL YEAR

(StatePoint) This fall semester is unlike any experienced in recent history, with some students learning at home, and teachers facing new challenges to keep students engaged.

For this reason, many parents are looking for extra support at home. Luckily, there are fun ways to infuse more learning into daytime schedules. Here are three learning toys which can keep kids engaged:

- Build the Fundamentals: Help lay the foundation for academic achievement while getting kids ages 2-7 excited about learning with the LeapStart Preschool Success interactive learning system. Touch-and-talk activities such as games, puzzles and creative challenges enhance learning to help kids build math, reading, problem-solving skills and more. The easy-to-hold stylus is comfortable for kids of all ages and promotes proper writing grip. And because the activities build on one another, this is not just a toy, but a learning system that can grow with your child. The expansive LeapStart library of books (sold separately) covers a variety of preschool through first grade subjects with more than 30 activities in every book.
- Explore the World: Young explorers can travel the world and see everything in it with the Magic Adventures Globe. Using the stylus, children can tap on the interactive learning globe and experience new places, languages, cultures, animals, geography, habitats and more through high-quality BBC videos. Featuring an integrated video screen, animations and live-action videos can supplement the school curriculum to provide a deeper understanding of the world. Three built-in interactive games further encourage kids to grow their geographical and cultural knowledge.
- Spark a Love of Literacy: Spark a love of reading and writing with the LeapReader Reading and Writing System, a tool which sounds out words, guides letter strokes and builds comprehension. LeapReader is also available with an accompanying book set that features interactive pages, lively character voices and activities that help boost reading confidence by introducing vowel sounds, sight words, word blending, spelling skills and more. Young readers can continue their learning journey with additional books advancing through four reading levels.

These learn-at-home toys are available on Amazon. For more information and school year ideas, visit www.leapfrog.com.

With educational toys that boost skills and spark a love of learning, families can embrace the school year with confidence.

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	Email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us
Arcadia High School 180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007 Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: Brent Forsee bforsee@ausd.net	Odyssey Charter School 725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001 (626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O'Neill website: www.odysseycharterschool.org
Arroyo Pacific Academy 41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca, (626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org	Pasadena High School 322 N. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca. (626) 396-5880 Principal: Roberto Hernandez website: http://phs.pusd.us
Barnhart School 240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007 (626) 446-5588 Head of School: Ethan Williamson Kindergarten - 8th grade website: www.barnhartschool.org	St. Rita Catholic School 2925 E. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 Principal: Adela Solis (626) 355-6114 solis@st-ritaschool.org Website: www.st-ritaschool.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.bcsllions.org	Sierra Madre Elementary School 141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 355-1428 Principal: Lindsay LUIS E-mail address: LUIS.lindsay@pusd.us
Clairbourn School 8400 Huntington Drive San Gabriel, CA 91775 Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172 FAX: 626-286-1528 E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org	Sierra Madre Middle School 160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 836-2947 Principal: Garrett Newsom E-mail address: newsom.garrett@pusd.us
Foothill Oaks Academy 822 E. Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010 (626) 301-9809 Principal: Nancy Lopez www.foothilloaksacademy.org office@foothilloaksacademy.org	Walden School 74 S San Gabriel Blvd Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166 www.waldenschool.net
Frostig School 971 N. Altadena Drive Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 791-1255 Head of School: Jenny Janetzke Email: jenny@frostig.org	Weizmann Day School 1434 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, Ca. 91107 (626) 797-0204 Lisa Feldman: Head of School
The Gooden School 192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 355-2410 Head of School, Jo-Anne Woolner website: www.goodenschool.org	Wilson Middle School 300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107 (626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us
High Point Academy 1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road Pasadena, Ca. 91107 Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989 website: www.highpointacademy.org	Pasadena Unified School District 351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109 (626) 396-3600 Website: www.pusd@pusd.us
La Salle College Preparatory 3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca. (626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org Principal Mrs. Courtney Kassakhian	Arcadia Unified School District 234 Campus Dr., Arcadia, Ca. 91007 (626) 821-8300 Website: www.ausd.net
Monrovia High School 325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016 (626) 471-2800 Principal Darvin Jackson	Monrovia Unified School District 325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016 (626) 471-2000 Website: www.monroviaschools.net
	Duarte Unified School District 1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010 (626)599-5000 Website: www.duarte.k12.ca.us
	Arcadia Christian School 1900 S. Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006 Preschool - and TK - 8th Grade 626-574-8229/626-574-0805 Email: inquiry@acsllions.com Principal: Cindy Harmon website: www.acsllions.com

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CHRISTOPHER Nyerges



ing the meanings of our Holidays at WTP's local events – see www.wtinc.info.]

When I was in my early teens, I became aware of a fact that I was not taught in Catholic school. Jesus – in whose honor this holiday revolves – was a Jewish rabbi who lectured in the Synagogue and kept the traditional Jewish Holy Days of his time. We know the date of Jesus’ birthday is not known to historians, and was certainly not December 25.

Using ordinary encyclopedias and the library, I began to uncover a side of Christmas that I never knew existed. First, I was a bit surprised to find that many people suggested that Jesus never existed at all, but they were searching for “Jesus Christ,” which is a combination of his Latinized name and a title. Rarely do these “researchers” understand that the given name would be Jeshua/Yeshua ben Josephus, or Jeshua ben Pandira, and sometimes Isai, and other variations in the language of that day.

I learned that as Jesus was celebrating the Jewish Holy Days, the known world at that time was commemorating nearly every Holy Day that Christianity celebrates today, but under a different name. Holy Days of Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Saint Valentine’s Day, Candlemas, and more, were all being commemorated in the Roman empire. Though they were commemorated under different names, the customs associated with each are still with us.

By the Third Century as Christianity was becoming a religious and political force, Constantine made a political choice to cement his Christian empire. Since there was resistance to dropping the old so-called pagan customs, Constantine “Christianized” the entire gamut of pre-Christian Holy Days and changed their names. (This is, obviously, the very short 25-cent version – you can read the long version in your encyclopedia.) The feast of Saturnalia was changed to the Mass of Christ, or Christmas.

By the way, “pagan” in its origin had no religious overtones. It merely meant a country-dweller, from the Latin “pagus.” The complaint that the pagans in their observation of their Holy Days were riotous and drunken was only partly right. History clearly demonstrates that among the “pagani” there was no more or less drunken revelry than there was among those now calling themselves Christians. Though December 25 is not the winter solstice, it is the day when someone observing the sunrises notes that the sun begins again its north-

SEEKING THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

ern ascent back from that southernmost point of the horizon that it reached on the winter solstice. It is the birth of the sun that that pagans celebrated, which Constantine made the birth of the Son. It is thus the day that modern Christians use to commemorate the birth of the one they refer to as the Son of God.

My first childhood reaction to learning of this “pagan history” of Christmas led to my disenchantment and depression. A few years later when I became a Buddhist, I was surprised to learn that my Buddhist friends celebrated Christmas. “It’s a social and secular holiday too,” they told me. “It’s part of the popular culture,” as they all had their warm parties and exchanged gifts in their eagerness to be a part of American culture. That opened my eyes to another side of this.

This season and its myriad symbols are ancient, yet it is still up to each of us to use these symbols, and this time, for a spiritual leap-forward, and not as an excuse to grovel in materialism. This year we have a great opportunity for going inward, and seeking the real meaning of Christmas.

Gift-giving, for example, can be a mindless act, or it can be a true communion between two beings. And gift-giving doesn’t have to be a physical object. It can be a service, some act of love, or even walking someone’s dog, or cooking a meal when they have the need. That’s the sort of gift-giving that I love to do with my closest friends. Of course, giving a special coin to someone in need is always appreciated!

The evergreens, the trees, the wreaths, the lights, all good symbols of spiritual renewal and eternal spiritual life. That’s what they’re there to remind us of.

Santa Claus is a latter day addition to the winter solstice time. Saint Nicholas was a real Catholic Bishop from Asia Minor who gave gifts to newlyweds around the Christmas season. The bland comic-book appearance of the modern “Santa Claus” has made him acceptable to today’s PCers as the “big man” of the winter solstice.

The Christmas season’s ancient symbols are intended to remind us that even at our darkest moment, there is hope for us finding the light again. That is why solstices were commemorated in the first place. So in the Christian tradition, it was Jesus born in Bethlehem, who we barely understand, whose life demonstrated that there is a way to live, a way that each of us should follow, that can lead us out of our spiritual darkness. That is why we commemorate the birth of Jesus at this time. And that basic principle is why so many cultures – modern and ancient – have taken the time to make this time of the year very special.

TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills
thechefknows@yahoo.com

HOLIDAY BUBBLES PART 3

Fiction is sometimes better told than fact. The wine industry is no exception. I am told German draft-dodger Jacob Schram made camp in Calistoga in 1862 looking for a place to plant his vines. One hundred sixty years later “Schramsberg” is producing some of my all time favorite sparkling wines to this very day. Is it good enough for me? It certainly was for Richard Nixon. In 1972, Barbara Walters reported that then-President Nixon and China’s premier Zhou Enlai toasted with it, and Schramsberg sparkling wine has been served at state functions by every president (and yes, in the Dills household) since then.

Sparkling wines are all blends and can be vintage, although the Schramsberg Blanc de Noir is a composition of grapes and regional combination. Blanc de Noir (meaning “white from black”) is 85% pinot noir and 15% chardonnay - thus the blend title - and that is just fine with this writer. With any “bubbles” yeast plays an important role in the fermentation role of the wine’s richness and body, making the wine crisp and low in tannins (The Monks found this out by accident). Many readers ask me about sparkling wine or champagne storage. I buy champagne to drink right away, but if you are able to purchase a six-pack to save a few dollars, that’s fine. This Schramsberg, if stored properly, in a nice cool place bottle on it’s side, it will be good for years to come, but why let it sit all alone when it should be enjoyed?

Yes, the holidays are here, and my research tells me that consumption of bubbles goes way up during the holidays. This is not a picnic sparkling wine - this is one of my favorites and I savor every zesty sip. Enjoy with a special friend, dinner, or a nice soft cheese.

Closure: Corked
Dills Score: 91
Retail: \$38 , Vons supermarket about \$31.

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, 9 points for finish, and 8 points for my overall impression, which includes my value rating.

Katnip News! SNEAKERS



Sneakers is a 6-yr. old tuxedo boy. He is shy but sweet. He’s a big boy, a gentle giant, but will need time to get used to people. He gets afraid when he is picked up, but it can be done. He lived on the streets, mainly in a one block area. Everyone knew him and fed him and with at least one person he would go in that person’s house and hang out on the sofa, then later amble outside again.



We think that if someone has a screened in porch or patio where he can have fresh air, birds to watch, etc., he would LOVE that. But watch out! He was rescued from the great outdoors, and that’s where he wants to be! He is an escape artist, and will try to “sneak” outside. He doesn’t realize that he would be in great danger! Sneakers really enjoys petting and being scratched--if he is on the same level with you, because if he’s on the floor and someone walks towards him, he runs away. That being said, you can get him back to you with FOOD! He gets along well with other cats, in fact he never once got aggressive or even assertive with smaller female cats. We don’t know about dogs. Sneakers is currently residing at The Cats Pajamas in Pasadena, where you can arrange a safe meeting after filling out the adoption application at www.lifelineforpets.org. Good news: Marley has been adopted.

Pet of the Week

Three-year-old Solange was found injured under a freeway overpass, and our veterinarians suspected she may have been hit by a car. She underwent surgery to repair her fractured femur, and since then has healed wonderfully and blossomed into such a sweet dog! Now that Solange has recovered, she has so much energy and loves to play. She’ll even toss her toys up in the air and catch them! Solange is friendly, intelligent, and affectionate – all she needs now is her perfect person.



Solange is eligible for a 30-day adoption trial. Bring her home with all the supplies, get to know her, and at the end of 30 days, decide if you’d like to adopt. Email fooster@pasadenahumane.org to get started with your 30-day adoption trial.

The adoption fee for dogs is \$140. All dog 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.

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

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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” book.



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 lhein@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 lhein@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

TELL SANTA I TRIED TO BE NICE



It's that time of the year when the conversation around the dinner table in the Parsonage has to do with naughty or nice.

I must admit it's not my favorite conversation because what is naughty, and what is nice? That all depends on who you're talking to. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has a different definition of these words than I do. According to my wife, nice has to do with broccoli, and naughty has to do with Apple fritter. At least I can't. I'm afraid I have to disagree with this because as far as I'm concerned, nice has to do with Apple fritter and naughty has to do with broccoli. I'm not sure that you can get any naughtier than broccoli.

But this time of the year, the definition of naughty and nice is determined by some overweight guy living in the North Pole abusing reindeer. If you think I'm going to listen to his definition, you don't know me. I don't want Santa to determine if I'm naughty or nice because I don't trust that guy. Why would I want to trust a guy who only works one day out of the year and the rest of the time live somewhere in the North Pole? He's almost, but not quite, as bad as politicians. But at least Santa works one day out of the year.

“So,” my wife began, “do you think you’ve been nice this year?” As a husband for almost half a century, I know a trick question when presented to me. I can't tell you how many times I have been tricked with one of these questions. “Well,” I stuttered, “how do you think I fared during the year?”

I was open to put it back on her shoulders and let her go away with it. My wife is an expert in many things and, in particular, in interrogation. Me, I'm an expert in failing interrogations.

Throughout life, I have learned that it is not what I think that really matters but what other people think particularly about me. It's not if I think I was nice this past year, but did my wife think I was nice.

Looking very thoughtfully as she usually does when interrogating me, she said, “Well, there was that incident at the beginning of the year about a lizard on my pillow.”

It was all I could do to hold back a chuckle. I remember that incident very well in a motel over in St. Augustine. I still can see that lizard staring at my wife.

“You have to admit,” I explained, “that lizard was rather a nice little critter.”

“If that's your definition of nice,” she said most adamantly, “then you have failed the test.”

I wouldn't say this out loud so that she could hear

me, but that was one test I enjoyed failing. After pausing for a moment or two, she said, “Then there's the incident about the bug on my leg while I was driving.”

Although I tried to withhold any outward expression of laughter, it was beyond my control.

“So, you think it was nice for that bug to be on my leg, causing me to bump into the car in front of me?”

I had almost forgotten that, but nobody was hurt in the incident.

“What does nice have to do with that kind of bug on my leg?”

Then, much to my surprise, she broke out laughing as well.

To some people, what is nice is not nice to other people. What is naughty is not necessarily naughty in someone else's estimation.

All these things she brought to my attention was not something I worked at. It was something that came without any influence on my part. My part was laughing at the incident and enjoying it for weeks to come.

As the room quieted down, I finally raised my question.

“So,” I began, “do you think you’ve been nice this year?”

The tables were turned now, and I wanted to press her with some of my interrogations.

I'm not a very good interrogator, particularly when it comes to issues concerning my wife. But I thought since she brought up the subject, I would carry it through and see where it took us.

She stared at me for quite some time and then said, “I think I have been overly nice because I have given you so much material to write about.”

Then she glared at me with one of “those glares.”

First, I didn't quite know how to take it. I was afraid that her NICE was turning into her NAUGHTY, and I would not be able to handle that.

Following a few silent moments, she then burst out laughing. I was relieved, to say the least.

We enjoyed a few moments of shared laughter, which greatly lightened up our day. As I was thinking about it, there was another nice aspect of our relationship.

That nice aspect is, my wife is not a writer, or I would be in trouble.

Later that day, I thought of the Bible verse. “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

Our relationship is not based on nice or naughty but rather on the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior.

FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett



5 QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE HIRING AN ESTATE PLANNING LAWYER—PART 2

Since you'll be discussing topics like death, incapacity, and other frightening life events, hiring an estate planning lawyer may feel intimidating or 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 the lawyer offers and how they run their business.

To gather this information and get a better feel for who the individual is at the human level, we suggest you ask the prospective lawyer five key questions. We listed the first two of these questions, and here, we cover the final three.

3. How will you proactively communicate with me on an ongoing basis?

The sad truth is most lawyers do a terrible job of staying in regular communication with their clients. Unfortunately, most lawyers don't have their business systems set up for ongoing, proactive communication, and they don't have the time to really get to know you or your family.

If you work with a lawyer who doesn't have systems in place to keep your plan updated, ensure your assets are owned in the right way (throughout your life), and communicate with you regularly, your estate plan may be worth little more than one you could create for yourself online—and it's likely to fail when your family needs it most.

Think of it this way: Yes, your estate plan is a set of documents. But more importantly, it's who and what your family will turn to when something happens to you. You want to work with a lawyer who has systems in place to keep your documents up to date and to ensure your assets are owned in the right way throughout your lifetime. Ideally, the lawyer should get to know you and your family over time, so when something happens, your lawyer can be there for the people you love, and there will already be an underlying relationship and trust.

4. Can I call about any legal problem I have, or just about matters within your specialty?

Given the complexity of today's legal world, lawyers must have specialized training in one or more specific practice areas, such as divorce, bankruptcy, wills and trusts, personal injury, business, criminal matters, or employment law. You definitely do NOT want to work with a lawyer who professes to be an expert in whatever random legal issue walks through the door.

That said, you do want your personal lawyer to have broad enough expertise that you can consult with him or her about all sorts of different legal and financial issues that may come up in your life—and trust he or she will be able to offer you sound guidance. Moreover, while your lawyer may not be able to advise you on all legal matters, he or she should at least be able to refer you to another trusted professional who can help you.

Trust me, you wouldn't want the lawyer who designed your estate plan to also handle your personal injury claim, settle a dispute with your employee, and advise you on your divorce. But you do want him or her to be there to hear your story, refer you to a highly qualified lawyer who specializes in that area, and overall, serve as your go-to legal consultant.

5. What happens if you die or retire?

This is a critically important—and often overlooked—question to ask not only your lawyer, but any service professional before beginning a relationship. Sure, it may be uncomfortable to ask, but a truly excellent, client-centered professional will have a plan in place to ensure their clients are taken care of no matter what happens to the individual lawyer managing your plan.

Look for a lawyer who has their own detailed plan in place that will ensure that someone warm and caring will take over your planning without any interruption of service. If your lawyer prepared a will, trust, and other estate planning documents for you, or if you are in the middle of a divorce or lawsuit, you want to make certain your lawyer has such a contingency plan in place, so you won't be forced to start over from scratch should your lawyer die, retire, or become otherwise unavailable.

A Lasting Relationship

Although hiring the right estate planning lawyer may not seem like a super important decision, it's actually one of the most critical choices you can make for both yourself and your family. After all, this is the individual you are trusting to serve on your behalf to protect and provide for your loved ones in the event of life's most traumatic experiences.

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



This morning I figured out why I haven't cut my hair or shaved since March. It is a protest against the ineptitude and arrogance of my specie, or perhaps my gender—I'm not clear yet. My awareness started with a dream. I was on this camping trip (I never go camping) with my wife and dog, Milo. Somehow, Milo and I ended up hiking with this young couple and their sixteen year old son. The hills kept getting steeper and I couldn't keep up with the couple but the young man hung back with me. He was very kind and walked slowly but I experienced this as his being solicitous and condescending much the way old people (not only me) feel they are treated by younger relatives. (Here let me help you, grandpa.) I asked the young man how tall he was and he said "five eight or something like that, but I know I will get taller as I get older."

"No you won't", I told him. "You're as tall as you're gonna get. After this it's all downhill" (which I was wishing about the hike.) All of a sudden Milo darted across this road which had cars on it and I tried to race after him but was slow. A car approached blocking my view of Milo –and Bam, the car kept going and there was Milo dead in the street. I was miserable, horrified at Milo's death but thought immediately of myself. I would have to carry his body back to my wife who would be heartbroken. Eventually, she would make things worse reminding me that she had told me that I was too old to go on the hike. I tried to turn away from her and noticed I couldn't move very easily. I was stuck under the covers and y realized that it all was a dream. Milo had been put down a year and a half ago but now awake. I still felt pretty bad.

Consistent with that feeling I turned on my recorded Democracy Now with Amy Goodman. The first thing I saw was Joe Biden coughing as he tried to make an acceptance speech. Why couldn't someone have given him a throat lozenge? Why is he so old? Why are Democrats so stupid? Suddenly, it hit me. I understood the meaning of my personal protest. How could seemingly educated folk like me even pretend we know what we are doing? We believe in the wisdom of science, the importance of the ethical values on which this country is based, the worth of our Democratic process and believe that we are the high point of evolution. We are a joke, our whole male gender is raging out of causing continual violence and destroying the planet. Lock up all the males and the world can be saved. Somehow these feelings, although not then understood had, months ago, been expressed by my protest.

After all, who are we kidding with our daily attempt to erase our animal connections from our face and stylish haircuts? Animals and indigenous peoples live in harmony with the planet. Perhaps all clean shaven Men should all be locked be restricted as an imminent threat to the immediate security of the world. LOCK THEM UP! Everyone agrees that the present problems of the world are anthrogenic, meaning caused by the activity of Man. That is the purpose of my protest. It is a statement of my willingness to accept guilt, a statement of humility, an acceptance of responsibility, and a demonstration of my awareness. As I accept this responsibility I realize that I am excluding from consideration non-Male members of the human species. It is "Women" who give birth to and nurture these monstrous male creatures. Women cannot escape blame. Perhaps there should be a requirement that they should bare their breasts as a way of accepting responsibility for what they have brought into the world.

Maybe the platform should be presented by an appropriately dressed (or undressed) female who does not suffer from the flaws of Joe Biden. Is this the future of politics or will it be a good reality show? Perhaps in the future they will be indistinguishable from each other.

PROTESTS



LEFT, RIGHT OR CENTER!

DANNY TYREE



Hello. I'm Grandpa."

For Christmas 50 years ago, my parents splurged and bought me a compact reel-to-reel tape recorder. My father had whetted my appetite with remarks that one could build a primitive voice recorder along the lines of Thomas Edison's prototype, but this was the real store-bought deal.

I took the prized possession along when my paternal grandparents hosted Christmas dinner for the very last time.

I THINK the device is still nestled in my mother's attic; but even without it, I distinctly remember Granddaddy Carl neglecting his King Leo stick candy long enough to lean forward and humor me by uttering, "Hello. I'm Grandpa" for the benefit of posterity.

Certainly, favorite carols playing over the radio or the shopping mall PA system create priceless Christmas memories; but, like my grandfather's announcement, there are so many other sounds that warm the cockles of our hearts and create cherished remembrances.

For instance, the laughter that accompanies good-natured ribbing when a new boyfriend or girlfriend meets the extended family for the first time.

Or the woofs, meows and neighs of new pets delivered to their forever home by Santa.

Don't forget the joyous sound of well-wishers when a family member announces a pregnancy, or when a baby experiences its first Christmas.

We can relive our own childhoods when we overhear youngsters unleashing their imaginations or discovering "Jingle Bells, Batman Smells" for the first time.

Even a distressing sound such as spinning tires stuck in snow can be outweighed by the sound of a neighbor (or a total stranger) asking, "What can I do to help?" instead of "What's in it for me?"

A well-worded, heartfelt prayer over a Christmas meal can fortify us just as much as the protein, vitamins and minerals.

Yes, Christmases seem to come faster and faster; but there is ample time for obstacles, disappointments and disasters between them. That's why we should embrace all the pleasant audio memories we can get.

On the other hand, some Christmas sounds are toxic.

A respectful exchange of political viewpoints keeps office parties and family get-togethers lively, but overheated ultimatums have no place on the holiday celebrating the Prince of Peace.

Christmas is not the time for families to serve up heaping helpings of long-simmering complaints about favoritism, inheritances or ostentatious displays of wealth. As the Horatio R. Palmer hymn advises, "Angry words, oh, let them never/ From the tongue unbridled slip. / May the heart's best impulse ever /Check them ere they soil the lip."

Some people spend all year guaranteeing that the yuletide season will be miserable for themselves and others. Christmas should be a time for togetherness and sharing, not a time for finger-pointing or self-flagellation.

Life gives us enough hard knocks without our wallowing in self-inflicted wounds (whether from dimwitted investments, shortsighted health decisions or hormone-driven shaky relationships). Good planning minimizes the need for abject apologies or violent defensiveness.

I have my "Hello. I'm Grandpa" memories to keep me warm – as well as the sound made by the "air blaster" toy I received all those decades ago and the ability to conjure up the jokes of long-gone aunts and uncles.

I'm sure you have your own favorite Christmas-connected sounds. I hope that this year you can accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative and make new connections that will last throughout the years.

Danny welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."

CAN WE PLEASE HAVE THE
RIGHT KIND OF CHRISTMAS
SOUNDS?

TOM PURCELL



His only source of joy, he initially thinks, is to rob the Whos of their Christmas presents, decorations and feast. His wants to make the Whos as miserable as he is.

And though he succeeds in taking all of the Whos' material possessions, the one thing he can't take is their Christmas joy.

He's shocked on Christmas morning when the Whos gather, hold hands and sing a joyful carol – not the least bit worried about their material losses.

This year, the stores are empty – few people are out shopping. There's no hustle or bustle that's so common at this time of year.

But the people who are out appear to be friendlier and more cheerful than usual.

While driving the other night, I noticed something wonderful: It appears that many more houses are displaying Christmas decorations this year. Whole neighborhoods are lit up with the most beautiful arrangements of Christmas lights.

I'm noticing this all over the city, and it makes me smile. I smile because it's a simple act of defiance in the face of the virus that keeps on causing us trouble.

I smile because COVID is causing us to focus on one of the greatest gifts of Christmas, which is charitableness. According to Marketplace, charitable giving has been way up in 2020.

"A lot of the data on charitable giving comes out at the end of the year, but we know from early numbers that people are giving more than in previous years, in particular to food banks, to groups that focus on housing and to mutual aid groups, which are more grassroots efforts, neighbors helping neighbors," reports Marketplace's Mari-elle Segarra.

COVID may be impeding our traditions and gatherings this year, but it's not bringing us down. Rather, it's helping us care more for our neighbors and others who are in need and struggling as a result of the daggone bug.

Sure, COVID, you've caused a lot of disruption. But you've helped open our eyes at the same time.

You've helped us identify some among us who enjoy their government powers a little too much – who abuse those powers a little too much.

You've helped us identify hypocrites who shut down restaurants and forbid travel – but then are caught eating at fancy restaurants after traveling to exotic vacation spots.

You've helped us realize that some people in power have little regard for the people they're supposed to serve, and choose not to allow those people to make their own commonsense decisions to, say, protect themselves from the virus while attending a church service.

I've got news for you, COVID: We're going to prevail over you. In fact, we already have. Because the true outcome of your disruptiveness has been to bring out the best in most of us – to bring out our Christmas cheer in abundance.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have some Christmas carols to sing.



PORTRAIT OF OUR NEIGHBORS By Stuart Tolchin

JANE NIELSON

Imagine it is 5 A.M., another sleepless night, you wish you had at least one friend in the world to talk to and together make peace with whatever is keeping you up. Someone who knows all your secrets and still cares for you. Someone you can be open with. Someone who is smart enough to get all your jokes and no matter how bad you feel can still make you laugh. Few things are more important. I have someone like that; Jane Nielsen, the first and most lasting friend I made after moving to Sierra Madre over forty years ago. Now she lives in Tennessee in an Eastern Time Zone on a luxury 10 acre property with a 2,800 square foot house. A way of understanding Jane and Edmundo is their use of their property as a Bed and Breakfast site. While others are staying in their home at the cost of \$350 per night, Jane and her husband make do residing in their trailer which has no electricity or running water or toilet facilities but allows them necessary daily earnings.



Jane is always occupied tending to the property, pulling saplings, and constantly cleaning the house. She is up early and has become a successful stock market day trader. (This is the reason she is already up and busy when we talk at 5:00). Certainly this time of travel restriction makes things tough but Jane and Edd are doing all right. The contents of our conversations are filled with Jane's instructions regarding diet as she has an almost life long interest in nutrition and exercise. Both follow disciplined diets and attend the gym regularly. Jane at 74 weighs 5 pounds less than when I met her 40 years ago and she was slim then. Our other subject is her grandson, a true freshman quarterback at Vanderbilt University, now forced to live in a bubble removed from other students, friends and family. His emotions tied to a season where he has lost every game while his coach has been fired have given Jane and I much to talk about. I have seen every game.

Over the years I learned of Jane's difficult past which has had as a long term effect on her overall emotional stability. At 13, after already being deported from Canada because of the actions of her father and then returning to Canada when her 15 year old sister became pregnant. Jane was given the choice to stay in school or go to Denmark and assist her sister who was being sent away to avoid embarrassment. Now at 13, Jane was in Denmark, not speaking the language and also not going to school. Men, particularly their own abusive, addicted father have always been the source of great problems. Eventually the sisters returned to Canada where they both had further misadventures with abusive men. Police intervention was required and the girls were moved to San Francisco for their own protection.

Now in the United States Jane had no desire to ever have a family. Out of ignorance and fear she became involved with a man who deceived her. Soon she was a single mother, with no education, not having learned to drive and no professional experience or qualifications. Her beauty she says brought men to her but also invariably brought conflicts. She describes herself as being a kind of sleeping beauty, unsure, awaiting a kiss from a Prince Charming who will protect her and cherish her, while at the same time she does not really want to be kissed. In Sierra Madre for fourteen years she and her daughter lived with a very nice man, but according to Jane, her previous painful experiences with men caused her to keep him at a distance inevitably dooming their relationship. During her time in Sierra Madre living across from me I took notice of her talents in photography, ceramics, and gardening. Talented but doubting her own ability.

Happily, she has found Edd; a hard-working previously married man. Together they have put a life together, travelled the world and continue to prosper and they both still look good. Hooray! Well, now you know Jane probably as well as I do. I am a little luckier than you though as she is available to talk and laugh with me even at 5:A.M.

The Creative Arts Gallery is open for Holiday Shopping!

Are you looking for that perfect last minute gift that doesn't require unpredictable shipping? The Creative Arts Group Gallery is open and well stocked with lots of wonderful one-of-a-kind art works and gifts!

We are grateful to all of you who have already come in to shop and welcome everyone to come take a look. We are also pleased to announce that we are beginning to roll out limited On-Line Shopping with curbside pick up for those of you who are local. Currently, we have a limited selection of artists and art work to choose from (there are significantly more artists represented in the Gallery than are currently available for online purchase) but it is a place to start!

Please visit our Gallery page to see a short video of **EVER-THING** in the Gallery and to check out our online store. If you see something on the video that you'd like but which isn't in the store, give us a call and you can purchase it over the phone.

All online and phone purchases ordered before Noon will be available for pick up between Noon and 2pm.

Our Gallery hours for the next week are:

Friday 12/18 10am - 5pm
Saturday 12/19 10am - 2pm
Sunday - Closed -
Monday 12/21 10am - 2pm
Tuesday 12/22 10am - 2pm
Wednesday 12/23 10am - 2pm
Thursday 12/24 - Closed -
Friday 12/25 - Closed -

The Creative Arts Group offices and Gallery will be closed from 12/24 - 1/3. We will reopen on January 4, 2021 ready to take on the new year.

As always, if you have any questions please call us or feel free to contact us atinfo@creativeartsgroup.org if you need any assistance. All our best, The CAG Staff (626) 355-8350

Christmas is coming and we are...

...decorating, baking, and hiding gifts!

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Christmas is Coming!

Every year, while waiting for Christmas, people around the world place glowing candles in their windows. Lights are hung on houses and trees. Cheerful fires are lighted in fireplaces. Bonfires and Yule logs blaze. Candlelight services are held in churches.

Burning candles and colored lights show our joy and hope. Candles in windows show a welcoming home and hearth. Lights remind some people of stars in the sky. All kinds of light can send a message of warmth and peace to all.

Can you find and circle items below that might fit into a stocking?

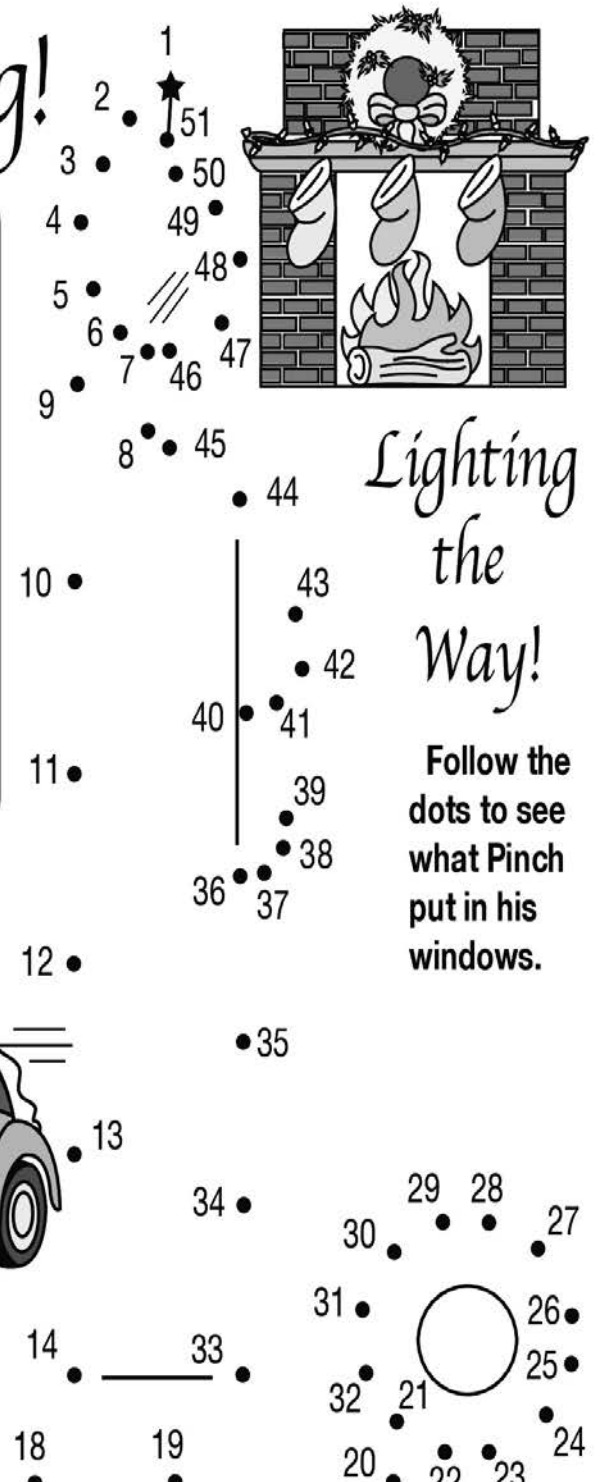
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gum
socks

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2020195158
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: AMG CONSTRUCTION 4237 W 142ND ST APT 4, HAWTHORNE, CA. 90250. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) ALFONSO MARCELINO GOMEZ VILLASENOR 4237 W 142ND ST APT 4, HAWTHORNE, CA. 90250. This Business is conducted by: INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ALFONSO MARCELINO GOMEZ VILLASENOR, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/23/2020. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/20/20. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2020211210

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: KV MOBILE NOTARY 11601 WILSHIRE BLVD. FIFTH FLOOR, LOS ANGELES, CA. 90025; KV MOBILE NOTARY 16733 SHERMAN WAY APT F, VAN NUYS, CA. 91406. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) KARLA M VASQUEZ 11601 WILSHIRE BLVD. FIFTH FLOOR, LOS ANGELES, CA. 90025. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: KARLA M VASQUEZ, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/09/2020. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/20/20. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2020211098

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LE REVE RESTAURANT 6304 LAUREL CANYON BLVD, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA. 91606. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) OLYMPUS GREEK RESTAURANT, INC. 6304 LAUREL CANYON BLVD, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA. 91606. This Business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed: OLYMPUS GREEK RESTAURANT INC., MIHRAN MIKE GOMUROUYAN, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/09/2020. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 1/2012. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)
Publish: ES Mountain Views News
DEC 19, 26, 2020, JAN 2, 9, 2021

SUMMONS

(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER: 20STCV25635
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: EMORY PAK, KYUNG SIK PAK, and DOES 1 THROUGH 20, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: JUAN ANTONIO GOLMEZ SOTO
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/ selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program.
You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site www.lawhelpcalifornia.org, the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/ selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case
The name and address of the court is:
Stanley Mosk Courthouse
Los Angeles Superior Court
111 North Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:

Frank Chirino SBN: 239568
DiMarco | Araujo | Montevideo
1324 N. Broadway,
Santa Ana, California 92706
714-835-6990

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A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!

IT TAKES A VILLAGETO
KEEP A COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER ALIVE!

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL
NEWSPAPER!

Well, we've made it to another Birthday! Since 2006, I have been publishing a weekly newspaper in the San Gabriel Valley specifically covering the cities of Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte, Pasadena, and also South Pasadena, Altadena and San Marino. It was August 4, 2007 however, when the first edition of the Mountain Views Observer (now know as the Mountain Views News) was published! My how time flies! That is a total of 698 CONSECUTIVE weeks; approximately 12,564 pages; more than 7 million print readership! Our website traffic exceeded 4 million page reads in 2019 alone! I am pretty proud of what we have accomplished over the last 14 years, despite huge economic challenges, such as the 40% tariff on newsprint that comes from China and has adversely impacted print media in the United States or California's AB5 which is another threat to newspapers statewide, we survived.

And then.....2020 and COVID-19 happened! To date, we are still alive and moving forward. We are proceeding cautiously and are committed to continue providing you with accurate information about your community. In March, when we reached out to you for help we expected that by May at the very least the Emergency would be over. We could not have imagined in our wildest dreams that in August the crisis would still be with us. As indicated in the beginning, the Mountain Views News has survived primarily on the paper's ability to publish legal notices and the support of our advertisers many of whom are also impacted by the COVID19 virus. However, that has all changed. We were informed mid-March that the County of Los Angeles closed all public access to buildings that process legal notices. Such action, while absolutely necessary means that the income generated from the publication of the Fictitious Business Notices came to an abrupt halt and that has not changed. Without the ability to publish those legal notices, continued publication of the Mountain Views News remains in jeopardy.

With your help, however, we can continue to sustain the only paper where your community news comes first while we work on alternatives to the current legal notice processing is found or LA County Buildings allow public access again.

Remember, print media is the only source of information that CANNOT BE HACKED! What you read in the Mountain Views News is accurate and as publisher, I stand behind every word. Our sources are reliable and dependable. Our Opinions share both sides of the argument. Community events and local organization activities are also an integral part of what we provide each week. And, while we do have an online presence, each week thousands of print copies are distributed.

Below are 4 ways that you can help sustain your local paper. All support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance. Susan Henderson, Owner/ Publisher/Editor



#1 Make an **ONLINE CONTRIBUTION** to help us recover from the COVID-19 interruption of legal notice revenue. <https://www.gofundme.com/save-the-mountain-views-news>

#2 **DONATE BY CHECK:** If you would rather make a donation directly to the paper, you can send a check. Make it payable to the Mountain Views News and mail to: Mountain Views News 80 W Sierra Madre Blvd. #327 Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024

#3 **HELP SUSTAIN PRINT DISTRIBUTION!** In addition to the impact of COVID-19, newspapers are also adversely impacted by California Assembly Bill 5 (AB5), which eliminates the use of independent contractors and triples costs. Become a *Sustaining Supporter of the Mountain Views News* by making an annual contribution of \$120 (\$10 a month). Sign up and get home delivery for free. Cancel at anytime. Please send check to: Mountain Views News Sustaining Supporter 80 W Sierra Madre Blvd. #327 Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024

#4 **SUBSCRIBE TO HOME DELIVERY** (right)



A special thanks to all of our Supporters and Subscribers! We could not have made it this far without you. This heart was created by my Granddaughter (Maila Thomas) who really knows how important the Mountain Views News is to our community. Please note that this is only a partial listing.

Susan Henderson, Owner/Publisher/Editor

Where Your Community News Come First

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre Arcadia Duarte Monrovia Pasadena Altadena South Pasadena San Marino

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TIME TO RENEW YOUR HOME DELIVERY SUBSCRIPTION

How can I get the paper delivered to my home?

If you live in Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Pasadena, South Pasadena, Altadena, San Marino, Monrovia, or Duarte, you can receive the paper at your front door each week for \$75 per year.

AND ALSO.....

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT AS WE ENTER OUR 14th YEAR OF PUBLISHING!



Pets in need

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

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Sierra Madre based non-profit



WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

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SIERRA MADRE

JOIN US FOR CHURCH OUTDOORS!

Christ Church Sierra Madre is a community of people seeking to follow the way of Jesus. 2020 has required flexibility and reinvention from all of us, but we are excited to provide safe, socially distanced outdoor services where we can gather as a community to be encouraged by the word of God, corporate worship, and time to connect with each other. Join us this weekend, we'd love to get to know you! Visit www.christchurchsm.org for more details and to familiarize yourself with COVID guidelines for our gatherings.

SERVICE TIMES

IN-PERSON
Sat 4:30pONLINE
Sat 6p | Sun 9a & 10:45a191 W. SIERRA MADRE BLVD. | CHRISTCHURCHSM.ORG

BH

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