

# Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Duarte

Monrovia

Pasadena

Altadena

South Pasadena

San Marino

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

VOLUME 15 NO. 17

## THE WEBB-MARTIN GROUP

SPREAD THE WORD!  
YOU CAN SAVE BIG \$\$  
ON PROPERTY TAXES



When **Proposition 19** went into full effect on April 1st, California homeowners aged 55+, severely disabled Or victims of wildfire or natural disaster are now able to move...

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- ✓ To any home, regardless of price\*
- ✓ Up to three times

Without incurring a property tax hike!\*



For more information, visit [prop19.car.org](http://prop19.car.org)

The information contained here is intended to provide general information and is not intended as a substitute for individual legal advice. Consult a qualified real estate or estate planning attorney with questions pertaining to a specific situation.

\*Purchasing a more expensive replacement property will result in an adjusted property tax increase based on the original Prop 13 tax basis.



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**Judy Webb-Martin 626.688.2273**  
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**Katie Orth 626.688.0418**  
[korth@dppre.com](mailto:korth@dppre.com) #00942500

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## PAYING IT FORWARD:

### SIERRA MADRE TO PREPAY \$1.5 MILLION TO CALPERS TO REDUCE PENSION COSTS

Over the past few years, the City of Sierra Madre has seen pension costs rise and, as a result, has been in search of viable options to help stabilize and reduce them, while protecting future benefits for past, present and future employees.

In a presentation to the Council during the regular meeting on April 13, Hillary Guirola-Leon, Finance Director, and Sophia Kownatzki, Management Analyst, summarized their recommended plan of making an Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) prepayment to CalPERS in the amount of \$1.5 million. This prepayment plan is estimated to result in an 88.1% funded ratio for the Miscellaneous Plan and 88.9% in Safety, while generating savings in an estimated amount of \$1.9 million.

As of June 30, 2019, the CalPERS valuation indicates the miscellaneous plan is funded at 79.6% and the Safety plan is funded at 83.4%. The total UAL across all pension plans is \$10,064,397. This valuation does not include current year returns. The most recent returns reported by CalPERS for FY 2019-2020 were 4.7%, which is substantially less than the 7% return target established by CalPERS. In total, Sierra Madre's liability increased by approximately \$600,000 due to returns that were so far below the projection by CalPERS.

In addition to the prepayment option, the City Council will establish a trust fund under California Employers' Pension Prefunding Trust (CEPPT). The Section 115 fund is expected to grow assets for future pension contributions and create a contingency reserve for those future payments.

Back on July 24, 2018, City Council authorized the creation of the Section 115 trust fund. This fund, when created, would allow the City



*This move will protect the pensions of city employees who work hard taking care of Sierra Madre without adding any financial burdens on the city.*

to invest assets to fund future pensions and Other Post-Employment Benefits' (OPEB) contributions over a shorter period than a regular pension fund. There is also a chance for better yields than other alternatives, such as the Local Agency Investment Fund.

Staff found that CalPERS provided the most cost-effective option providing the City with the best value. The CEPPT plan is a self-funding, not-for-profit trust in which employers pay for all expenses through a participation fee equivalent to \$2,500 for each \$1 million in managed assets. In addition, the CEPPT option does not have a minimum contribution or required annual contribution amount, though it recommends a contribution of \$500,000, which City Council agreed to pay for a one-time fee. Furthermore, the agreement includes annual funding of up to \$100,000 for the next five fiscal years.

The CEPPT option is also a less risky option and less expensive than the PARS Pension Rate Stabilization Program that was also considered.

"The plan that we have been doing has been great," said Council Member Edward Garcia. "We are in a position unlike and municipality in our area. I want our community to rest assured that this plan is a good plan, the way we've been paying this down. We are not asking for debt like some of our neighboring communities. We are doing it in a responsible manner thanks to our city management," Garcia stated.

The \$1.5M additional prepayment will be funded as follows:

General Fund: \$1,150,000  
Water fund: \$140,000  
Sewer Fund: \$112,000  
ISF Personnel and Risk: \$98,000.

The \$500,000 initial funding of CEPPT will be funding as follows:

General Fund: \$425,000  
Water fund: \$30,000  
Sewer Fund: \$24,000  
ISF Personnel and Risk: \$21,000

Total All Funds

General Fund: \$1,575,000  
Water Fund: \$ 170,000  
Sewer Fund: \$ 136,000  
ISF Personnel and Risk: \$ 119,000.

Despite the extra prepayment of \$1.5 million, the city is expected to end the year with a budget surplus.

The motion to make the prepayment and join CEPPT carried unanimously and with broad enthusiasm from Council Members. Congratulations were given to the city's finance staff and the City Manager for their excellent management of the city's finances.

Copies of the report can be accessed on the City's website at [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com).

Kevin McGuire/MVNews

## SIERRA MADRE REOPENING EXCITED MORE THAN JUST THE RESIDENTS



*Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi wasn't the only one excited about city services reopening on Monday. Rexy might have been the first one to bring her book to the counter for check out. Library hours for the public are now Monday - Thursday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The library is closed on Sunday. (Note: Rexy, like the Mayor is wearing a mask which is required, but she had to move it in order to check out!)*

## USE OF JOHNSON & JOHNSON VACCINE TO RESUME IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

After a thorough safety review by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), they determined that the pause in the use of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine can be lifted and that use of the vaccine should resume. Vaccine providers in LA County with doses of the Janssen vaccine can resume administration of the vaccine tomorrow, provided they distribute the updated Janssen fact sheets to any recipients of the vaccine. Public Health will be posting updated safety information about the Janssen vaccine shortly.

As for the City of Sierra Madre, According to City Manager Gabe Engeland says, "Sierra Madre will work with the county to try to get more vaccination clinics scheduled".

The decision comes after CDC's independent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices reviewed

data related to the recent reports of a rare and severe type of blood clot that occurred in individuals after receiving the vaccine. Based on their review of all available data, both the CDC and the FDA determined that the vaccine is safe and effective in preventing COVID-19. We are grateful to the scientists and clinicians conducting this thorough review and are confident moving forward in distributing and administering the vaccine.

*The three vaccines that are currently available through the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) remain the most powerful tools we have in reducing transmission, preventing serious illness and death, and eventually ending the COVID-19 pandemic that has claimed the lives of almost 24,000 people in LA County. We encourage anyone eligible to make an appointment as soon as they can by visiting [www.VaccinateLACounty.com](http://www.VaccinateLACounty.com) (English) and [www.VacunateLosAngeles.com](http://www.VacunateLosAngeles.com) (Spanish).*

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## ALVERNO GOLF CLASSIC

### MAY 21, 2021

#### Brookside Golf Course

All-inclusive packages include a round of golf, cart, food, sips, and swag!

Funds directly benefit students' education as we continue to build outdoor learning spaces, invest in campus technology, and enhance enrichment opportunities.

**Register by May 9 at [bit.ly/AlvernoGolfClassic](https://bit.ly/AlvernoGolfClassic)**

More information: [APTA@alvernoheights.org](mailto:APTA@alvernoheights.org)

  AlvernoHeightsLS

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Dear Mom

### Letter Essay Contest for kids!

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[www.ghwilkejewelry.com](http://www.ghwilkejewelry.com)

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## 608 Fairview Ave., Sierra Madre



This is a classic Reggie Tollefson design and build home..

This 3 level home has gorgeous hardwood floors, upstairs and downstairs.

The kitchen has beautiful oak cabinets with designer stained glass inserts. Very spacious with a breakfast nook. All the stained glass in home was designed by Susan Wallace.

The living room has a fireplace, cherry mahogany wood floors, surrounded by windows. The den family room off kitchen has a fireplace also. There is also a half bath with washer and dryer.

The master suite is upstairs with full bath. The two other bedrooms share another full bath.

The attic on 3rd floor is finished, carpeted.

The home has newer heating and central air. Water heater is on 3rd floor. The yard has mature landscaping in front and back yards. The back yard is fully fenced. There is a very large 3 car garage with a loft (garage has 220volt). Perfect for maybe an ADU or home office.

Carol Canterbury  
BRE #01243298  
(626) 355-1600 Office  
(626) 252-6322 Cell



  
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**TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR! GO TO:**  
<https://608fairview.com>

This information is deemed reliable, but has not been verified and is not guaranteed.



**Rotary**  
Club of Sierra Madre

PRESENTS

### UNDERSTANDING ELECTRICITY UTILITIES AND TRENDS FOR THE FUTURE

Featuring our Guest Speaker  
**BRIAN CHEN**  
Director, Business Planning & Performance  
Southern California Edison

**TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021 • 8:00AM [ZOOM]**



Brian Chen came to California in 2009 by way of Indiana and Texas. He is a civil engineer by training and now works in the electric utility industry for Southern California Edison, where he has served in various roles including strategy, operations, regulatory, and finance. Recently Brian led a team charged with coordinating enterprise-wide efforts to combat California's unprecedented wildfires. Brian will speak on electricity generation and distribution plus the causes behind the Texas cold weather energy shortage.

To join our meeting, send an email requesting the ZOOM link to  
[sierra.swish@gmail.com](mailto:sierra.swish@gmail.com)



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Rotary Club of Sierra Madre



# SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

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Hours: Sunday - Tuesday 7am-3pm • Wednesday -Saturday 7am-9pm

## SIERRA MADRE CIVIC CLUB TO GIVE BACK

Sierra Madre Civic Club wants to thank the Only Place in Town for making the effort to stay in business through the pandemic. So, instead of asking for donations from merchants for our usual spring auction, we ask the public to join us in patronizing town businesses including the Only Place in Town. Club members are encouraged to wear Club attire.

Please join us.

Who: Public, everyone is welcome; members are encouraged to wear Club attire  
 What: Breakfast — Lunch — Dinner  
 Where: Only Place in Town 110 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
 When: Monday, April 26, 2021 All Day: 8am — 9pm.  
 Restrictions: Self pay/no host; maximum of 6 to a table; masks

***Come join us and give the Only Place in Town the business.***



### 4TH OF JULY PARADE GRAND MARSHAL NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 2021

The Volunteers of the Sierra Madre 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee are seeking nominations for the 2021 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Grand Marshal themed #SMStrong. Due to the holiday falling on a Sunday the Parade, hopefully being held on the BLVD will be held on Monday, July 5, 2021.

Parade Grand Marshal Nominees should embody the spirit of Sierra Madre, be an active volunteer in any of the local nonprofit organizations or in some way contributed to the betterment of Sierra Madre, fully demonstrating how #SMStrong is how we survived 2020. Nominees may be an individual or volunteers or an organization. Last year's GM was SMThrives.

Nominations must be submitted in writing by Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and should be sent to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee, PO Box 1073 Sierra Madre CA 91025 or emailed to 4thofjulysiemmadre@gmail.com or a DM sent to us via Facebook. Nominations should be no more than 1 page but at least a paragraph explaining why the honor should be given including contributions to the Sierra Madre community submitted along with a fun picture of the nominee.

Previous Grand Marshals have included 2020 SMTHRIVES, 2019 Bud Switzer, 2018 Steve Heydorff, 2017 Derek Podrebarac, 2016 Pete Siberell and Hometown Hero Kris Lowe, 2015 Clem and

Nina Bartolai, 2014 Pat & DeAlcorn & Hometown Heroes Sierra Madre Search and Rescue, 2013 VFW Post 3208 & Hometown Hero Mama Pete; 2012 Nel and Bob Soltz (Wistaria Vine owners); 2011 Gayle Bluemel & Hometown Hero John Shear; 2010 Lew Wantanabe; 2009 Midge Morash; 2008 Sierra Madre Fire Department; 2007 Ward Family (E. Waldo Ward & Sons); 2006 Judy Webb Martin & Toni Buckner & Hometown Hero Barbara Wamboldt; 2005 Police Chief Wayne Bailey; 2004 Doug Berkshire; 2003 John Grijalva; 2002 Bob Quamstrom; 2001 Ty Gaffney; 2000 Dr. Bill White; and 1999 Jim & Barbara Heasley.

The 2021 Event is being reimaged to include as many of our hometown traditions as possible with current Health Orders and social distancing requirements. So stayed tuned more details are coming soon. Parade registration will open May 1<sup>st</sup> so be on the look out if you wanna show your #SMStrong pride.

This All-American friends and family event is made possible through the wonderful contribution of donors and sponsors. If you'd like to help please visit <http://www.sierramadrefourthofjuly.com/> or follow us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/4thofjulyInfo>

## WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

*"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."*  
 Native American Proverb  
*"He that plants trees loves others beside himself"*  
 Thomas Fuller  
*"The earth has music for those who listen."*  
 William Shakespeare  
*"The earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth."* Chief Seattle  
*"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."* Rachel Carson



Last Thursday was the 51<sup>st</sup> annual Earth Day. I came across a statement by photographer, Joel Sartore, founder of the National Geographic Photo Ark Project. He is determined to document every animal species in zoos and wildlife sanctuaries. As of now, he has photographed 11,341! "The goal with each shot is to have another chance to get the public to care about what happens to nature because what happens to everything else is what is going to happen to people, too." Joel Sartore's advice to all of us resonated with me as I take delight every day with what is going on in my backyard where bees and hummingbirds feast on the nectar from cactus blossoms, golden bells and orange and lemon blossoms. This week's picture is of cactus blossoms where, if you look closely, you will see one or two bees. Here's what he said:

"You can't go wrong by planting native plants. Plant milkweed to help save the monarch butterfly and nectar-bearing plants to bring back bees. That's something we can do right now. By putting more native plants in your landscaping you are creating a space that is appropriate."

We spoke of bees a few weeks ago and here are a few more fun facts about those amazing little guys:

- A bee produces a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.
- To produce a kilogram of honey, bees fly the equivalent of three times around the world in air miles.
- Bees really don't want to sting you because they die.
- There are more than 20,000 different species of bees, found on every continent except Antarctica.
- The greatest contribution of bees and other pollinators is the pollination of nearly three quarters of the plants that produce 90% of the world's food. A third of the world's food production depends on bees. Think of it this way: every third spoonful of food depends on pollination!

I am imagining Noah as he is putting the finishing touches on the Ark, this enormous boat the likes of which no one has ever seen or imagined before. Noah is sweating in the sun, hammering in the last few nails, bringing aboard bales of hay and everything it's going to take to provide gourmet feasts for two of every kind of bird, beast and bug. His neighbors are sitting in the shade on their porches with pitchers of margaritas and bowls of chips and guacamole laughing at him.

"Look at that guy! Rain? He keeps talking about rain and floods and doom and gloom."  
 "Guy's really a bummer, dude!"

The time is near, tiny clouds are forming in the sky but Noah's neighbors don't notice at all. What they do notice is there seem to be more bees buzzing around than usual. The bees take a look at the people, smell the margaritas and move on quickly. Nothing there to eat.

Noah notices them, too, and has a brief consultation with The Lord as to how to bring the bees onboard. He notices there seems to be a tree branch that is hanging heavy with something that is attracting the bees. Slipping his hammer back into his tool belt, Noah follows the bees, who seem to be inviting him to come see what they are doing. Taking a moment to stretch his aching back and sip a little water, Noah steps off the Ark and follows the bees, noticing as he goes that they are flying in and out of the fragrant flowers along the pathway to the tree. The air is fragrant and Noah appreciates a moment away from his labor.

A bee larger than all the others flies to Noah and perches on his hand. She seems to nestle there, knowing she is safe. God opens Noah's ears and he can hear what she is asking, entreating. "Please, Noah, bring us all. Bring our family." She lifts her heavy body off his hand and leads him forward. As Noah walks toward her home, more bees begin to cluster around the queen and link to each other's bodies, hanging onto their legs and arms to create a form that keeps the family together.

"Yes!" God says. "Bring them all and they will give you honey to make your bread and comfort at the end of the day to sweeten your tea."

Noah sees that the branch can easily be broken off and he gently does exactly that. With the bees dancing happily around him, he takes the hive back to the Ark. Nailing a crosspiece across two beams, he secures the hive and goes back to work. "We will need these when we reach land," he says, and thanks God for providing bees which will bring new life in a new land.

"My bees cover one thousand miles of land that I do not own in their foraging flights, flying from flower to flower for which I pay no rent, stealing nectar but pollinating plants in return." Sue Hubbell

If you're looking at seed packets at Home Depot, why not bring home some sunflowers, dahlias, rosemary, zinnias. They look fabulous, smell wonderful and bees like them.

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis  
 Where you'll find "Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope"  
 And "A Tablespoon of Love, A Tablespoon of Laughter"  
 Both of these books are stuffed with hope and a good recipe or two.  
 The Emma Gainsworth Kindle novelettes are there, too,  
 Along with other goodies like "Noah and The Unicorns."

**PLEASE STAY SAFE!**  
**SOCIALLY DISTANCE!**  
**WEAR A MASK!**

## Wishings 2021 A Faculty Show Celebration

Come visit the Creative Arts Group  
Gallery and Patio



Visit the gallery to see the  
faculty work and add your wish  
to our Community Wishing  
Tree.

Spring Session begins in April - Registration opens soon

**Creative Arts Group**  
 108 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre  
 (626) 355-8350 [CreativeArtsGroup.org](http://CreativeArtsGroup.org)



## REOPENING

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021

Physical distancing and masks are required in all City facilities.  
 The City will continue to follow Cal/OSHA prevention plan inspection and exposure protocols.

### CITY HALL

- Mon - Thur, 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Lobby capacity: 6
- Front counter capacity: 2 groups of 2 maximum
- Appointments only for Planning Dept. Each appt. max of 2 people

### PUBLIC SAFETY

- Mon - Thurs, 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Lobby capacity: 2

### OUTDOOR EVENTS

- Reservations are not allowed in parks at this time
- Future events to be determined by LA County Safety Protocols

### LIBRARY

- Mon - Thur, 11:00 a.m.- 6:00 a.m., Sat 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.,
- Total capacity of 15 visitors
- No indoor programming
- Outdoor programming will be allowed with varying capacity

### HART PARK HOUSE

- Reservations are not allowed in Hart Park House at this time



Catch breaking news at:  
[mtnviewsnews.com](http://mtnviewsnews.com)



## Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

|      |       |    |     |      |     |
|------|-------|----|-----|------|-----|
| Sun  | Sunny | Hi | 60s | Lows | 50s |
| Mon  | Sunny | Hi | 60s | Lows | 50s |
| Tues | Sunny | Hi | 70s | Lows | 50s |
| Wed  | Sunny | Hi | 70s | Lows | 50s |
| Thur | Sunny | Hi | 80s | Lows | 80s |
| Fri  | Sunny | Hi | 80s | Lows | 60s |

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



### City of Sierra Madre CITY COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 27, 2021 - 4:00PM

Council meetings will now be held outdoors at the bandshell at Memorial Park! Social distancing and masks are required.

As part of the City of Sierra Madre's COVID-19 transmission mitigation efforts, the City Council meeting will take place at the City of Sierra Madre Memorial Park Bandshell located at 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre CA 91024. As part of the COVID-19 transmission mitigation efforts, the City recommends that all attendees bring their own chair. In the event of rain or other inclement weather, the meeting may be moved to Zoom.

The Brown Act provides the public with an opportunity to make public comments at

any public meeting. Public comment may also be made by e-mail to PublicComment@CityofSierraMadre.com by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Emails will be acknowledged at the Council meeting and filed into public record. The public may also comment in-person at the meeting.

The meeting will be streamed live on the City's website at cityofsierramadre.com, on Foothills Media website at foothillmedia.org/sierramadre and broadcast on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum).

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

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

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

Your event must:

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

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



Sierra Madre Public  
**LIBRARY**  
Read • Discover • Connect

This week at the  
**Sierra Madre  
Public Library**

April 26-May 1

#### Monday

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

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

**The Library Is Sus**—Online at 3:00pm; call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register

#### Tuesday

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

#### Friday

**Aloha Friday**—View online after 10:00am

Read, Discover, Connect  
@ Sierra Madre Public Library



9 Kersting Court, Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
626-355-1180 [www.leonoramoss.com](http://www.leonoramoss.com)

Mother's Day is May 9!  
Shop early for flowers, gifts, and cards. We deliver.



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website - [smumc.net](http://smumc.net)



### Sierra Madre Woman's Club

550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. 2021: 114 Years  
Founded February 23, 1907 - "Living the Volunteer Life" in Friendship  
Member: General Federation of Women's Clubs [cfwc.org](http://cfwc.org) & [gfwc.org](http://gfwc.org)



### Rent The 1914 Essick House

Lawn / Gazebo Area  
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[facebook/SierraMadreWomansClub](https://www.facebook.com/SierraMadreWomansClub) 355-4379  
Wistaria Thrift Shop 355-7739

Accepts Clean, Gently Used Donations Saturdays 8 - 11 am ONLY



### Sierra Madre Woman's Club

550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. 2021: 114 Years  
Founded February 23, 1907 - "Living the Volunteer Life" in Friendship  
Member: General Federation of Women's Clubs [cfwc.org](http://cfwc.org) & [gfwc.org](http://gfwc.org)

### Wistaria Thrift Shop

NOW OPEN Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays  
1st & 3rd Saturdays 10 am - 3 pm

Thank You for Supporting Us &  
SMWC's Philanthropies!

Do you like to "Help Out"?  
Shop Volunteers Sought: 355-6007 to Apply

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## South Pasadena City Manager Candidate Virtual Forum

*After South Pasadena City Council rescinded job offer Tuesday, that leaves one candidate for the position.*

South Pasadena city officials announced Thursday that the South Pasadena City Council will host a candidate forum on Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to introduce City Manager candidate Armine Chaparyan.

The announcement came just two days after the South Pasadena City Council rescinded the job offer to former city manager of Los Altos, Christopher Jordan. The offer withdraw came in light of some residents questioning Jordan's job history. He had recently and suddenly stepped down as Los Altos City Manger. Jordan had also resigned as West Linn Oregon's City Manager amid controversy of his hiring of the city's police chief.

According to news reports in Oregon, Jordan hired embattled West Linn Police Chief Terry Timeus without a background check. Timeus later retired from the city in light of drunk driving allegations. Other allegations against Timeus included making sexist, racist and anti- gay comments as a police officer, of which, Jordan took no action. The two also worked together in Lake Oswego Oregon where the allegations took place.

As for Wednesday's virtual forum, Chaparyan is expexted to present her experience and interest in serving in the city's top administrative post.

Chaparyan has 15 years of experience in municipal government and holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Public Administration Masters from the University of Southern California. Ms. Chaparyan has worked for the cities of Ontario, Santa Clarita, and most recently San Gabriel.

If you are interested in hearing from the candidate on specific topic areas, please email [cmoffice@southpasadenaca.gov](mailto:cmoffice@southpasadenaca.gov).

There will also be an opportunity for questions at the end of the forum, time permitting.

The virtual meeting will be conducted over ZOOM and broadcast live on the city council meeting webpage. Registration is not required to participate in the live forum. For more information on how to join visit: [southpasadenaca.gov](http://southpasadenaca.gov).

Following the community forum, any employment agreement would be presented for consideration at their May 5 meeting.



## City to Cut Fees of Youth Sports and Camps

By Dean Lee

The Pasadena city council is set Monday to review a plan that will slash the cost of summer youth sports programs and camps, for Pasadena residents, to the point of making some of them free.

The temporary reduction will include youth sports leagues, such as, basketball, flag football, soccer and volleyball; summer aquatics; summer camps; and fitness and wellness classes according to officials in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCS).

According to a city staff report, the idea is to "re-engage the community and increase outdoor park use."

"In recognition of the difficult economic situation many families face, the reduced pricing structure features a nominal fee to encourage participants to attend the programs and classes for which they enroll," the report reads. "Staff did consider recommending all these programs be offered free of charge, but realize that some residents might enroll and not actually attend because there would be no financial consequences."

The regular fee of \$65 per season for youth sports

drops to \$10 per season. No-contact boxing will be free. Most Summer Day/ Neighborhood Camps will drop to \$10 a week with camps at Washington Park and La Pintoresca Park being free. Normal camp fees range from \$50 a week to \$118 a week. Other teen programs, summer and fall, are scheduled to be free. Group swim classes are set to drop from \$50 a session down to \$10 a session. The drop in fees will not apply for non-Pasadena youth, teens and adults.

PRCS Department staff said they had offered, due to Covid-19 safety and heath protocols, modified programming that highlighted sports drills and agility training, small groups for summer day camp, and non-contact boxing. All fee reductions would apply to the summer and fall recreation programs through October 31, they said.

Program sessions are typically six to eight weeks. Youth sports league seasons range from eight to 16 weeks. Under the reduced pricing model, summer day camps are seven weeks long instead of a regular eight-week camp the staff report states.

The city council will not take any action on the plan. The agenda item is set for

review only.

The city council meets Monday by videoconference at 4:30 p.m.

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

## Portantino's Poway Gun Bills Pass Committee

Senate Bills 715 and 387, authored by State Senator Anthony Portantino were approved this week by the Senate Public Safety Committee. SB 715 addresses the validity of a hunting license and independent review of gun possession disputes. SB 387 is aimed at improving community policing and public safety outcomes through an appropriate curriculum requirement for police officers.

"SB 715 is an important step towards combatting the gun violence epidemic in our country," Portantino said. SB 715 addresses concerns related to the tragic synagogue shooting in Poway. This measure would require the Department of Justice, for sales of firearms to persons under 21 years of age who are eligible to purchase a firearm based upon their possession of a hunting license, to confirm the validity of the hunting license as part of the background check. This bill additionally defines what constitutes a valid and unexpired hunting license.

SB 715 also clarifies what qualifies as an unarmed civilian to prompt investigations of officer involved shootings by the Attorney General's Office. It would authorize the state prosecutor to investigate and gather facts in an incident involving a shooting by a peace officer that results in the death of a civilian if there is a reasonable dispute as to whether that civilian was armed. Existing law, AB 1506, authorizes the state prosecutor to investigate only an officer involved shooting of an unarmed civilian.

In an incident, a Pasadena Police Department officer fatally shot Anthony McClain. It was unclear whether McClain was armed and therefore the incident was not eligible for DOJ investigation. Under SB 715, incidents such as the McClain shooting would be eligible for the same review included in AB 1506.

SB 387 would direct the Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training to develop an expanded curriculum specifically designed to prepare officers to meet the expectations of a modern police force, including classes on mental health, social services, psychology, communication, and other related fields.

## Mars Helicopter Logs Second Successful Flight



NASA announced that Ingenuity helicopter successfully completed its second Mars flight on Thursday –the 18th sol, or Martian day, of its experimental flight test window. Lasting 51.9 seconds, the flight added several new challenges to the first, which took place last Sunday, including a higher maximum altitude, longer duration, and sideways movement.

"So far, the engineering telemetry we have received and analyzed tell us that the flight met expectations and our prior computer modeling has been accurate," said Bob Balaram, chief engineer for the Ingenuity Mars Helicopter at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California. "We have two flights of Mars under our belts, which means that there is still a lot to learn during this month of Ingenuity."

For this second flight test at "Wright Brothers Field," Ingenuity took off again at 2:33 a.m., or 12:33 p.m. local Mars time. But where Flight One topped out at 10 feet (3 meters) above the surface, Ingenuity climbed to 16 feet (5 meters) this time. After the helicopter hovered briefly, its flight control system performed a slight (5-degree) tilt, allowing some of the thrust from the counter-rotating rotors to accelerate the craft sideways for 7 feet (2 meters).

"The helicopter came to a stop, hovered in place, and

made turns to point its camera in different directions," said Håvard Grip, Ingenuity's chief pilot at JPL. "Then it headed back to the center of the airfield to land. It sounds simple, but there are many unknowns regarding how to fly a helicopter on Mars. That's why we're here – to make these unknowns known."

Operating an aircraft in a controlled manner at Mars is far more difficult than flying one on Earth. Even though gravity on Mars is about one third that of Earth's, the helicopter must fly with the assistance of an atmosphere with only about one percent of the density at Earth's surface. Each second of each flight provides an abundance of Mars in-flight data for comparison to the modeling, simulations, and tests performed back here on Earth. And NASA also gains its first practical experience operating a rotorcraft remotely at Mars. These datasets will prove invaluable for potential future Mars missions that could enlist next-generation helicopters to add an aerial dimension to their explorations.

As with the first test, the Perseverance rover obtained imagery of the flight attempt from 211 feet (64.3 meters) away at "Van Zyl Overlook" using its Navcam and Mastcam-Z imagers.

For more about Perseverance visit: [nasa.gov/perseverance](http://nasa.gov/perseverance) and [mars.nasa.gov/mars2020](http://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020).

## Biden to Recognize the Armenian Genocide

Congressman Adam Schiff spoke on the House Floor to deliver an open letter to President Joseph Biden, calling on him to keep his campaign promise to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.

An open letter to Biden Schiff wrote: "Mr. President, in just five days, the world will mark the 106th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide, the systemic murder and displacement of 1.5 million Armenian women, men, and children by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923. This will be the first April 24th of your presidency, and your

first opportunity to follow through on your promise to recognize the genocide and your decades of leadership on this issue.

On behalf of hundreds of thousands of Armenian Americans, the children and grandchildren and great grandchildren of genocide survivors, I ask you: Keep that promise. Recognize the Armenian Genocide."

Reports Friday said that Biden told Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of his plans to recognize the 1915 massacre of Armenians as genocide.

For the full text of the letter visit: [schiff.house.gov/news](http://schiff.house.gov/news).

## Ask the Athletes: Women's Professional Basketball

The Pasadena Senior Games has teamed up with the California Senior Games Association to produce a monthly Zoom series of sports-related panel discussions by seasoned current and former professional athletes followed by questions from viewers of the live events.

Five former stars in women's professional basketball will be featured at 4 p.m. Monday, May 10: Laurie Byrd, Kirsten Cummings, Ann Meyers, Sue Wicks and Anne Warner Cribbs.

Sue Wicks played women's basketball from 1984 to 1988 for Rutgers University in New Jersey where she was a three-time All-American and remains the record-holder as lead scorer with 2,655 points and lead rebounder with 1,357 rebounds. A trailblazer all her life, Ann Meyers (pictured) was the first woman accepted by an American university on a four-year athletic scholarship. She led the UCLA Bruins to a national championship and became the first four-time All-American women's basketball player.

As a girl growing up on the streets of Detroit, Laurie Byrd developed a love of basketball. As a college student, she played on the Eastern Michigan University Hurons (now the Eagles) women's basketball team



from 1978 to 1982 and scored 1,899 points, a record that was not surpassed by women or men players until 2011.

Anyone 50 or older may register by visiting [pasadenaseniorcenter.org](http://pasadenaseniorcenter.org) and clicking on Events, Clubs and Lectures, then Online Events or calling 626-795-4331. Everyone who registers will receive a link via email for joining the Zoom discussion. Membership in the Pasadena Senior Center and residency in Pasadena are not required. Anyone who does not have Internet access may call 626-795-4331 to receive a number to call to listen to the live event by phone.



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# ARCADIA-MONROVIA-DUARTE

## ARCADIA POLICE ARRESTED TWO SUSPECTS FOR MAIL THEFT

On April 21, 2021, at approximately 4:55AM, Arcadia Police Officers responded to the 200 block of Arbolada Drive on the report of a package theft. Officers were able to track the package, ultimately locating two suspects in a car in the City of Monrovia. The package, which was stolen from inside the mailbox in front of the house, was located inside the suspect's car. In addition to the package, the suspects were in possession of mail from neighboring cities along with drug-related items. Both suspects were arrested. If you suspect you were a victim of mail theft, you can contact the police department at 626-574-5123. Please remember, if you "See Something, Say Something."

## VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM ON HOMELESSNESS

The City of Arcadia is hosting a virtual Community Forum on Homelessness on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6pm. Please join us for an informational forum on homelessness and how Arcadia is addressing the issue. Learn about various grants available to support programs and services, the myths of homelessness, the status of the Homeless Resource Hub, and how Arcadia is working with a number of community organizations on a coordinated response.

Participants may register for this event by weblink or telephone: <https://zoom.us/j/94557947517>. Telephone: 1.669.900.6833 Webinar ID: 945 5794 7517 Passcode: 963391

For more information, please contact Sara Somogyi, at the City of Arcadia at 626.821.4369 or [ssomogyi@arcadiaca.gov](mailto:ssomogyi@arcadiaca.gov).

## ARCADIA PUBLIC LIBRARY REOPENING MAY 3

Arcadia Public Library will reopen to the public on Monday, May 3, with express services and temporarily reduced operating hours. This marks the first time the public has been able to enter the library building since March 2020, although the Library has continued to offer front-door pick-up services, passport services, and a wide range of virtual programming.

Library users will be required to wear masks and socially distance while in the building and to follow posted COVID-19 guidelines.

The Library will be open to the public on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 4 pm to 8 pm; Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 10 am to 2 pm; and from 11 am to 5 pm on Saturdays.

Contactless curbside pick-up of requested items will still be available by appointment. Passport, remote printing, chat and telephone services will continue as before, as will online programs for children, teens, and adults. The Library's electronic resources and downloadable books, magazines, movies, and more are available 24/7. Library staff are looking forward to welcoming back the public and expanding library hours and services as conditions permit.

For more information, please call 626.821.5567 or visit the Arcadia Public Library's website at [www.arcadiaca.gov/library](http://www.arcadiaca.gov/library). The Arcadia Public Library is located at 20 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia. You can also follow the Library on Facebook and Twitter.

## 2021 MONROVIA DAYS CELEBRATION

The City of Monrovia, in partnership with Monrovia Unified School District and Centre Stage, is excited to announce the return of the 3-day Monrovia Days Celebration for the city's 135th birthday!

With ongoing concerns around COVID-19, the Monrovia Days celebration will look different this year. Although the annual parade and carnival will not take place, all are invited to participate in the reimagined activities. All programs are subject to the guidelines as established by the LA County Department of Public Health, including maintaining physical distancing and wearing a face covering. Additional restrictions and / or cancellations may apply.

### Community Festival

From May 14 through May 16, the community is invited to grab a meal from a restaurant in Old Town Monrovia and join the Picnic Pavilion Celebration at Library Park. Throughout the day, entertainment will be provided by students of the Monrovia Unified School District and Centre Stage. Participants will be required to sit at a table or in a designated park pod and are encouraged to bring their own seating. While at Library Park, the community can also take a free horse drawn carriage ride through Old Town Monrovia or capture memories with the free photo booth.

### Community Art Project – Monrovia Rocks!

To celebrate and memorialize the City of Monrovia's 135th birthday, Monrovia residents are invited to paint a rock and donate it to be a part of a permanent installation at Library Park. To participate, locate a rock that is no more than 3" in length and paint it. When the rock is dry, drop off the rock at the Monrovia Community Center (119 W. Palm Ave.). All rocks must be received no later than 4 p.m. on May 7. The rocks will be placed prior to the Monrovia Days weekend at the installation in the north-east portion of Library Park.

### Special Monrovia Days Story Times

Gather the family and enjoy a few birthday celebration stories by tuning into the Monrovia Public Library's YouTube Channel. During the Monrovia Days weekend, a new video will be released each day.

### Old Town Window & Home Decorating Contest

Old Town Monrovia businesses and residents are invited to decorate their business store front and home for Monrovia's birthday! Registration is required and is now open at [www.cityofmonrovia.org](http://www.cityofmonrovia.org). The judging will take place from May 6 to May 9, and winners will be announced on May 14.

### Monrovia Days Family Adventure at Home

The City of Monrovia is excited to present Monrovia Days Family Adventure at Home, a three-day challenge. Registered participants will receive special activity kits that includes arts and crafts, special games, challenges and activities. Upon completion of each challenge, participants will earn limited edition birthday badges. Registration is required and limited and is now open at [www.cityofmonrovia.org](http://www.cityofmonrovia.org).

## INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY DUARTE KIWANIS MEMBER

Duarte Kiwanis member, Reyna Diaz has as gift for providing help just when it is needed. Recently, Reyna and her daughter traveled for 33 hours by bus to bring 800 pounds of clothing and food baskets to Zacatecas, Mexico. They chose to go by bus so they could bring all the luggage to carry the 800 pounds of these goods to needy folks. 55 families were also provided food baskets to help during the pandemic in this rural area of Mexico.

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



## DUARTE TO HOST FREE COVID-19 VACCINATION SITE

### FREE COVID-19 Vaccinations Available in Your Community

**WHERE**

**Duarte Senior Center**  
1610 Huntington Drive  
Duarte, CA 91010

**WHEN**

4/25/21 - 4/26/21  
8:00am - 4:00pm  
\*\*Closed for lunch 11:00am-12:00pm

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE**

General Public 18+

**Please remember to bring the following:**

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- Confirmation Number

**For more information please contact:**  
[publichealth.lacounty.gov](mailto:publichealth.lacounty.gov)

**Schedule your appointment online at:**  
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- You'll be asked to provide a **phone number or email address** during the booking process.
- Consider asking a family member or friend to help book the appointment if needed.

If you are unable to make your appointment online, please call the Duarte Parks and Recreation department at (626) 357-7931 to make your appointment.

# ALTADENA-SO. PASADENA-SAN MARINO

## NASA TAKES PART IN EXERCISE SIMULATING ASTEROID IMPACT

All next week, members of NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office (PDCO) will participate in a "tabletop exercise" to simulate an asteroid impact scenario. The exercise depicting this fictional event is being developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Center for Near Earth Object Studies (CNEOS), allowing NASA's PDCO and other U.S. agencies and space science institutions, along with international space agencies and partners, to use the fictitious scenario to investigate how near-Earth object (NEO) observers, space agency officials, emergency managers, decision makers, and citizens might respond and work together to an actual impact prediction and simulate the evolving information that becomes available in the event an asteroid impact threat is discovered.

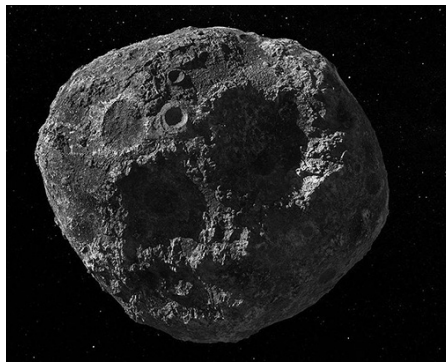
The fictitious impact scenario will occur during the 7th IAA Planetary Defense Conference, hosted by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in cooperation with ESA (European Space Agency), and will evolve over the five days of the conference, starting Monday, April 26. At several points in the conference program, leaders of the exercise will brief participants on the latest status of the fictitious scenario and solicit feedback for next steps based on the simulated data that is "discovered" each day. These type of exercises are specifically identified as part of the National Near-Earth Object Preparedness Strategy and Action Plan developed over a three-year period and published by the White House in June 2018.

"Each time we participate in an exercise of this nature, we learn more about who the key players are in a disaster event, and who needs to know what information, and when," said Lindley Johnson, NASA's Planetary Defense Officer. "These exercises ultimately help the planetary defense community communicate with each other and with our governments to ensure we are all coordinated should a potential impact threat be identified in the future."

So far, NASA has participated in seven impact scenarios – four at previous Planetary Defense Conferences (2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019) and three in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The joint NASA-FEMA exercises included representatives of several other federal agencies, including the Departments of Defense and State.

"Hypothetical asteroid impact exercises provide opportunities for us to think about how we would respond in the event that a sizeable asteroid is found to have a significant chance of impacting our planet," said Dr. Paul Chodas, director of CNEOS. "Details of the scenario – such as the probability of the asteroid impact, where and when the impact might occur – are released to participants in a series of steps over the days of the conference to simulate how a real situation might evolve."

The fictional scenario kicks off on April 26, when



*JPL's Center for Near Earth Object Studies will lead the hypothetical impact scenario to see how international agencies respond to an actual impact prediction.*

astronomers "discover" a potentially hazardous NEO considered a risk to Earth. Details about the imaginary asteroid's threat to our planet will evolve over the days of the conference, and exercise participants will discuss potential preparations for asteroid reconnaissance and deflection missions and planning for mitigation of a potential impact's effects. But it is a real parameter that the international community has decided that a 1 in 100 chance of impact is the threshold to begin response actions.

The Planetary Defense Conference and its exercise serve as precursors to the launch of NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART), which is the first-ever actual demonstration of an asteroid deflection technology, and the first test mission of the agency's Planetary Defense program. DART is scheduled to launch later this year and will impact the asteroid Dimorphos in Fall 2022 to change its orbit in space, which could be a key technique for mitigating a potentially hazardous asteroid that is on a collision path with Earth, should one be discovered in the future. Through an international observation campaign, follow-up observations of Dimorphos using ground-based telescopes will monitor the orbit of Dimorphos and measure the change in time it takes the asteroid to orbit its larger companion, Didymos, due to DART's impact.

"DART will be the first test for planetary defense, and the data returned after it impacts Dimorphos will help scientists better understand one way we might mitigate a potentially hazardous NEO discovered in the future," said Andrea Riley, program executive for DART at NASA Headquarters. "While the asteroid DART impacts poses no threat to Earth, it is in a perfect location for us to perform this test of the technology before it may actually be needed."

Starting April 26, information on the exercise, including a "fact sheet" of updated findings, will be available on the exercise page on the 2021 PDC Hypothetical Asteroid Impact Scenario page: [cneos.jpl.nasa.gov](http://cneos.jpl.nasa.gov).

## South Pasadena wants input on the City Budget

*Input received will be presented with a draft operational budget to the City Council in May*

City of South Pasadena would like your feedback regarding priorities for the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget. A community budget engagement program was developed by staff to facilitate a dialogue between residents and the City to better understand community priorities for future spending.

Due to the health crisis and social distancing guidelines, the City has created a fully digital community budget engagement program.

- Learn more about the City's Budget The platform includes a brief presentation on City revenue sources and an overview of operating costs.

- Provide input on priorities through survey.

The online survey allows residents to provide input on specific City services and programs.

## Senior Center Now Open

Pasadena Senior Center Reopens With Limited Modified Services –the center has been open only for social services and for older adults in need.

The center now is open for additional, modified services with occupancy limits. Every person who enters is subject to temperature screening at the door, is required to use hand sanitizer made available and complete a brief health questionnaire.

Three rooms at the center are now open again: the Sy Graff Fitness Center, the library and the computer lab.

The fitness center is open by appointment only with a limit of two people per one-hour block. Appointments may be made on a first-come, first-served basis by calling 626-795-4331. Each person will be required to complete a brief health questionnaire before appointments are confirmed. Fans have been removed to prevent the spread of droplets as recommended by the Pasadena Public Health Department. Masks are required at all times. All equipment and major touch points are sanitized after each use. The library is open for the purchase of books and puzzles only.

The computer lab is open by appointment only for a maximum of two hours, two people at a time, to allow for social distancing, with time limits monitored by volunteers at the Welcome Desk at time of entry. Computer screens, keyboards and countertops are sanitized after each appointment. For more information visit: [pasadenaseniorcenter.org](http://pasadenaseniorcenter.org) or call (626) 795-4331.

## Library Comic Book Club for Grown Ups

Join the South Pasadena Public Library Comic Book Club for Adults!

May 6th Meeting: They Called Us Enemy  
Date: May 6, 2021  
Time: 7:00 - 8:00 PM  
Title: They Called Us Enemy by George Takei  
Description: In 1942, at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, every person of Japanese descent on the west coast was rounded up and shipped to one of ten "relocation centers," hundreds or thousands of miles from home, where they would be held for years under armed guard. They Called Us Enemy is Takei's firsthand account of those years behind barbed wire, the terrors and small joys of childhood in the shadow of legalized racism, his mother's hard choices, his father's tested faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future. What does it mean to be American? Who gets to decide?

Meetings are held online on the 1st Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM. Registration is required. Comic Book Club for Adults is intended for adult participants, and titles discussed may contain mature images and subjects. Each month a new graphic novel/comic book will be selected and discussed via Zoom. View upcoming titles (subject to change) and more on the Comic Book Club webpage at: [southpasadenaca.gov](http://southpasadenaca.gov).



# AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

## COME ON DOWN! SANTA ANITA IS OPEN AND THE EXCITEMENT CONTINUES!

By Joan Schmidt



My husband Bob and I FINALLY made it to Santa Anita Park, recently opened to the Public. You MUST purchase tickets BEFORE going to the Park. There are several options. Visit [www.santaanita.com](http://www.santaanita.com) and click on a link to purchase tickets.

It was a great reunion seeing so many since over a year ago, including Tom Quigley, Handicapper; Kimberly Rispoli with their precious son, (Image of his Daddy); and many jockeys-especially Jessica Pyfer, who placed in THREE races. She's worked horses for her trainer stepdad, Phil D'Amato/others, earned a college degree and was an Intern for Supervisor Kathryn Barger! But racing has always been in her blood. Jess has excelled as an apprentice and we were so happy to finally see her race! (Sunday Jess won on Uncle Addouna and Rakassah!) Also newest apprentice Emily Ellingwood won on Question Authority on Saturday.

Victor Espinosa is back and won both races on Achilles and Cece! Victor is such an AWESOME human being. His 90 year old mom Gloria fractured her back at home in Mexico and needed his help: hospitalized for three weeks, confided to a wheelchair and undergoing daily therapy. Victor was there from day 1-that's why he hadn't been racing. Now Mom's returned home, and his sister can provide care, so Victor is back at Santa Anita.

Saturday had two Stakes Races. Umberto Rispoli won the Mizdirection Stakes on Constantia. (John Sadler, trainer) Umberto will be on Rock Your World (John Sadler, Trainer) in the Kentucky Derby in two weeks! CONGRATS, Umberto!

Mike Smith led Royal Ship (Richard Mandella, Trainer) to win the California Stakes. Congrats to Mike: so talented, but humble and always gracious to fans.

Sunday, Flavien Pratt won Tokyo City Cup Stakes on Tizmagician (Richard Madella) and Kona Gold Stakes on Cezanne (Baffert). Apprentice Alexis Centeno placed on Brickyard Ride. Congrats also to winners: Edwin Maldonado (Mucho Del Oro), Geovanni Franco (Tiz Wonderfully), and Kent Desormeaux (Sweetest Angel).

The Kentucky Derby is first Saturday in May: CA connections include Joel Rosario on O'Neill's Hot Rod Charlie; Drayden Van Dyke: Like the King (W. Ward), Umberto: Rock Your World (J. Sadler); John Velazquez on Medina Spirit (Baffert), Joe Talamo on Midnight Bourbon (S. Asmussen); and Rafael Bejarano on Hidden Stash. (V. Oliver) Baffert's Concert Tour will bypass the Kentucky Derby and do the Preakness. Good luck to all! That's all the News! Hope to see you at the Great Race Place

## WHAT DOES 5G TECH MEAN FOR YOU?

(StatePoint) By now, you've heard about 5G or might have access to it on your smartphone, but do you know what it is, how it works or what it can do for you?

5G is the next generation of wireless technology, building on its predecessors 2G, 3G and 4G, and is available on today's smartphones to make and receive calls, run applications and send and receive data.

This fifth-generation technology is a massive leap into what is possible in wireless. 5G is expected to deliver faster speeds and enhanced connectivity, giving businesses and consumers alike the potential to develop and experience new, innovative technologies.

Here are five things you may not know about 5G:

1. 5G improves overall wireless coverage: 5G can deliver better, more efficient coverage in both breadth and depth. Depending on where it's deployed by wireless operators, it can reach cities and towns that were previously lacking wireless access. Providers like T-Mobile are committed to providing 5G access to rural America, and already cover more than 287 million people across more than 1.6 million square miles.
2. Different types of 5G can support where you live: Providers deploy different levels of wireless spectrum – low, mid and high – with the ability to provide coverage and capacity whether you live in the city, the suburbs or a rural community. For 5G, low-band spectrum provides far-reaching coverage outside, and reaches indoors with speeds that are slightly better than LTE; mid-band pro-

vides blanket coverage across large areas with fast speeds, making it the “goldilocks” of spectrum; and, high-band – typically available in select urban areas – provides super-fast speeds over short distances, but needs line of sight to the device and doesn't pass through physical obstructions.

3. 5G will create “smarter cities”: From monitoring pollution or traffic levels to optimizing energy use or self-driving transportation, 5G can enable applications that urban cities and small towns alike can use to live smarter.
4. 5G unlocks technology developments for industry: With 5G connectivity, and new applications to support certain industries, businesses and industries can evolve to meet the needs of a connected world. Imagine farmers utilizing sensors and drones to enhance the agriculture community, or businesses using real-time language translation, or even enhanced location services to improve first responder times to save lives.
5. Virtual and augmented reality or holographic scenarios: 5G gives us the ability to transform where and how we experience our lives. Imagine having virtual reality access to live concerts and sports games, using holographic telepresence to be a part of your family's birthday party in another state, or having real-time driving data like traffic or road conditions displayed on your car's windshield as you drive.

The possibilities with 5G are endless and will offer individuals and businesses the ability to do and experience the world around them in ways they couldn't before.

From 5G-enabled smartphones to the latest connected devices, check with your wireless provider to see how you can get the most out of 5G technology where you live.

**TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills**  
*thechefknows@yahoo.com*

### BASEBALL METAPHORS IN A CULINARY WORLD

If you have been following my articles here in the hometown newspaper The Mountain View News you know that I love a good burger, and recently I have fallen in love with Slater's 50/50 (sorry Island's - I have been cheating on you, but I do miss you).

Last week I persuaded food blogger Howard Meyers to meet me at Slater's. I have been there four times and as far as my success, they were batting a big 1000.00 percent with me as I have enjoyed sitting at the bar and watching the game, sampling what brew I wanted and talking to the Cicerones (fancy name for a bartender who knows his beer).

On this day we sat (Safely) in the main room, and while our server was full of energy things just didn't seem in the groove. A few apologies are okay, but once he engaged us in the 7th inning of our meal he wouldn't stop.

I was a little disappointed with my burger, and maybe I had built up my blogger friend's expectations too high, but he kind of shrugged his shoulders after the meal and said it was just okay.

So I am now officially 4-for-5 at Slaters 50/50, a sweet batting average of .800, my Angel/Dodgers Fans, and with both the Angels and Dodgers playing Plus-.500 baseball I'll take .800 anytime, I'll be back !!



Save these dates:  
Sundays... The Dills report is back on the air AM 830 KLAA AKA The Angels station  
Next Week my Cinco de Drinko Margarita round up 2021 Edition !!

## LA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH TO LAUNCH INTERACTIVE VACCINE TRACKER

Public Health will launch an Interactive Vaccine Tracker later today that allows users to quickly view areas with high and low vaccination rates and interactive graphs of daily and cumulative vaccination numbers. It will also allow the user to better understand inequities over time and across the county. This is one of the first trackers in the country with county-level data, and can be viewed at: [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov).

After a thorough safety review by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), they determined that the pause in the use of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine can be lifted and that use of the vaccine should resume. Vaccine providers in L.A. County with doses of the Janssen vaccine can resume administration of the vaccine tomorrow, provided they distribute the updated Janssen fact sheets to any recipients of the vaccine. Public Health will be posting updated safety information about the Janssen vaccine shortly.

"Our deepest sympathies go out to everyone mourning a loved one lost to COVID-19," said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "Vaccination appointments are available at many sites, and it is important for people ages 16 and older to get vaccinated as soon as they can. Since vaccine eligibility recently expanded to include teens 16 and 17, over 47,000 L.A. County teens 16 and 17 years old have been vaccinated, almost 19% of that population. This is a great start, and we are hopeful that over the coming weeks, increased collaboration with schools and Federally Qualified Health Centers will steadily increase that number."

More than 6,600,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to people across Los Angeles County. Of these, 4,254,160 were first doses, including 274,212 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine before the pause in use last week, and 2,387,785 were second doses.

Next week, Public Health is expecting to receive approximately 296,000 vaccine doses; an 18% decrease from this week. Approximately 51% of next week's vaccine supply will be for first doses and 49% will be for second doses. Of the 296,000 doses of vaccine the County expects to receive next week, 75% of doses will go to sites located in the most vulnerable communities.

As of April 20, 75% of L.A. County residents 65 and older have received at least one dose and 60% of residents 65 and older have been fully vaccinated. Overall, 48% of L.A. County residents 16 and older have received at least one dose of vaccine and 30% have been fully vaccinated.

While there is good progress in increasing vaccination rates across the County, the County continues to see large geographic disparities. Many west-side communities have vaccination rates of 90% and other affluent areas have rates above 80%, while a significant number of the lower income communities have rates that fall below 50%. Rates remain lowest in south Los Angeles, east Los Angeles, east San Fernando Valley, the Antelope Valley, and pockets of the San Gabriel Valley and the Harbor Gateway region of Los Angeles.

Public Health continues to deploy mobile vaccination teams to get shots in arms in hard-hit communities. There are 111 mobile sites scheduled next week at various locations including at faith-based organizations, senior housing, food and agriculture sites, metro stations and at other community-based organizations. These mobile sites are critical to County efforts to distribute the vaccines equitably and vaccinate people in hard hit communities with either lower vaccination rates or lack of access.

Public Health is offering walk-in registration spots at County-run mass vaccination sites through Monday, April 26 while supply lasts. Anyone 16 and older living or working in LA County can get vaccinated. You will need to bring a photo ID with you and teens 16 and 17 should be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Registration for COVID-19 appointments will be completed on-site.

Visit: [www.VaccinateLACounty.com](http://www.VaccinateLACounty.com) (English) and [www.VacunateLosAngeles.com](http://www.VacunateLosAngeles.com) (Spanish)(Spanish) to learn how to make an appointment at vaccination sites, what verifications people will need to show at your vaccination appointment, and much more.

If you don't have internet access, can't use a computer, or you're over 65, you can call 1-833-540-0473 for help finding an appointment. There may be an extended wait time to speak with an operator for help making an appointment during high demand times. Vaccinations are always free and open to eligible residents and workers regardless of immigration status.

Public Health will host a Virtual Town Hall on COVID-19 Vaccines on Tuesday, April 27, at 6:00 p.m. Join the town hall to learn more and hear updates. The town hall will be streamed live on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube @lapublichealth. For more information and to submit a question, visit: [tinyurl.com/DPHVaccineTownHall](https://tinyurl.com/DPHVaccineTownHall)

County Reopening Protocols, COVID-19 Surveillance Interactive Dashboard, Roadmap to Recovery, Recovery Dashboard, and additional actions you can take to protect yourself, your family and your community are on the Public Health website, [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov).

### LOCAL STATISTICS AS OF 04/24/2021

| TOTAL LA COUNTY CASES |            |           |        |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|--------|
| Cases:                |            | 1,230,786 |        |
| Deaths:               |            | 23,759    |        |
| CITY                  | POPULATION | CASES     | DEATHS |
| Altadena              | 43,260     | 3,296     | 73     |
| Arcadia               | 57,754     | 2,692     | 133    |
| Bradbury              | 1,069      | 36        | 0      |
| Duarte                | 22,016     | 2,303     | 97     |
| Monrovia              | 38,800     | 3,162     | 76     |
| Pasadena              | 141,371    | 11,204    | 340    |
| Sierra Madre          | 10,989     | 464       | 13     |

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE FOR VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

On March 10, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health published a modified Health Officer Order to reflect changes for individuals who are fully vaccinated to align with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) new guidelines and interim public health recommendations.

The guidance provides that fully vaccinated individuals may resume certain activities, such as gathering with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing; visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing; and refraining from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic. The Department of Public Health recommends that fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- Take steps to protect themselves and others by wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. These precautions should be taken whenever they are:
- In public
- Gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household
- Visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease or who lives with a person at increased risk.
- Avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings
- Watch out for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if after contact with someone who is sick. If they have symptoms of COVID-19, they should get tested and stay home and away from others.





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## EASING STUDENTS' ANXIETIES AS THEY RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM

(StatePoint) When it comes to the emotional well-being of students post-pandemic, a new study reveals that teachers expect significant challenges when schools make a full return to in-person learning.

The study, commissioned by the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI), the world leader in de-escalation training, shows that 84% of teachers say student trauma, mental health issues and increased anxiety are their biggest concerns with full classroom re-entry.

“Many of those in school communities have faced adversity and trauma, ranging from upended routines to home isolation and loss of family members. Simply restarting school won't erase the aftereffects,” says Susan Driscoll, president of CPI.

In many cases, the past year has simply exacerbated issues that predate COVID-19. It's estimated that prior to the pandemic, nearly half of all students in the U.S. had experienced some form of trauma, according to the nonprofit research organization, WestEd.

Driscoll says that while the federal government's COVID CARES Act will provide essential financial support at the district level, at the individual level, families and teachers are in a position to help make the transition as smooth and successful as possible. “Ideally, all individuals in a student's life will be aligned in helping them prepare for their return to school,” she says.

Having trained more than 15 million individuals over four decades in its techniques, CPI is lending its unique knowledge during this transitional period. Here are some of the organization's top tips for teachers and parents who are busy making preparations for the return to in-person learning:

- Create a good learning environment: Classrooms should be well-organized and structured, but also welcoming to reestablish a familiar routine.

- Listen empathetically: Offer your undivided attention, then provide thoughtful, non-judgmental feedback.

- Rebuild trust: In a recent survey by the American Federation of Teachers and the New York Life Foundation, only 15% of educators said they feel very comfortable addressing students' emotional needs caused or intensified by the coronavirus outbreak. While teachers may feel a bit unprepared in this area, making it clear to students that sharing their feelings and concerns is appreciated and encouraged will go a long way.

- Acknowledge your own anxiety: Take the time to understand the reasons you are feeling anxious and seek a positive outlet.

Additionally, CPI has created educator-specific supplemental content to its Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training. That training, which is approved for stimulus related federal funding via the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, will focus specifically on recognizing the stages of an escalating crisis, as well as learning evidence-based techniques to appropriately de-escalate. During its 40-year history, CPI has trained more than 55,000 educators worldwide in non-violent crisis techniques that assist with de-escalating and managing heightened school situations. To learn more, visit [crisisprevention.com/About-Us](https://crisisprevention.com/About-Us).

Opening the doors is only step one in returning students to the classroom. As the pandemic eases, parents and teachers will also need to actively address a year's worth of isolation and anxiety.

## 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](mailto:jfanara@alvernoheights.org)

### Arcadia Christian School

1900 S. Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006  
Preschool - and TK - 8th Grade  
626-574-8229/626-574-0805  
Email: [inquiry@acsions.com](mailto:inquiry@acsions.com)  
Principal: Cindy Harmon  
website: [www.acsions.com](http://www.acsions.com)

### Arcadia High School

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

### Arroyo Pacific Academy

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

### Barnhart School

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

### Bethany Christian School

93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-3527  
Preschool-TK-8th Grade  
Principal: Dr. William Walner  
website: [www.bcsions.org](http://www.bcsions.org)

### Clairbourn School

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

### Holy Family Catholic School

1301 Rollin Street South Pasadena Ca 91030  
(626) 799-4354 •  
Transitional Kindergarten - 8th Grade  
Principal: Mrs. Darcie Girmus  
Website: [www.school.holyfamily.org](http://www.school.holyfamily.org)  
Email: [info@hollyfamily.org](mailto:info@hollyfamily.org)  
Facebook & Instagram @HFSKnights

### Foothill Oaks Academy

822 E. Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010  
(626) 301-9809  
Principal: Nancy Lopez  
[www.foothilloaksacademy.org](http://www.foothilloaksacademy.org)  
[office@foothilloaksacademy.org](mailto:office@foothilloaksacademy.org)

### Frostig School

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

### The Gooden School

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

### High Point Academy

1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road  
Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989  
website: [www.highpointacademy.org](http://www.highpointacademy.org)

### La Salle College Preparatory

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

### Monrovia High School

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

### Odyssey Charter School

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

### Pasadena High School

2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 396-5880 Principal: Roberto Hernandez  
website: <http://psh.pusd.us>

### St. Rita Catholic School

322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
Principal: Adela Solis (626) 355-6114  
[solis@st-ritaschool.org](mailto:solis@st-ritaschool.org)  
Website: [www.st-ritaschool.org](http://www.st-ritaschool.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](mailto:LUIS.lindsay@pusd.us)

### Sierra Madre Middle School

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

### Walden School

74 S San Gabriel Blvd  
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### Weizmann Day School

1434 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
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Lisa Feldman: Head of School

### Wilson Middle School

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

### Pasadena Unified School District

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

### Arcadia Unified School District

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

### Monrovia Unified School District

325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016  
(626) 471-2000  
Website: [www.monroviaschools.net](http://www.monroviaschools.net)

### Duarte Unified School District

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

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2. large wall in the stadium that records the points of each team
3. when a ball hit by the batter flies too far to the right or the left
4. sphere covered in white leather
5. to hit the ball lightly so that it rolls only a short distance
6. sunken room the team gathers in during the game
7. the runner steps on the base
8. official in charge of enforcing the rules
9. group that sets rules and guidelines to help young children play organized baseball
10. the number of balls and strikes a batter has
11. period when baseball players warm up, shape up
12. the basemen, shortstop, and pitcher stand here
13. each game has 9 of these, teams take turns batting and fielding
14. a hit that goes so far that it leaves the bounds of the park
15. place we visit to watch a game of baseball
16. players here are on guard for big hits
17. person who trains the team
18. after 3 of these, a batter is out
19. ball that travels high in the sky when hit
20. nine players working together

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Little League  
Spring Training  
coach  
pop fly  
baseball  
outfield  
stadium  
umpire  
foul  
strike  
team  
count  
bullpen  
infield  
tag  
bunt  
home run  
scoreboard

Hey! That player just stole something... third

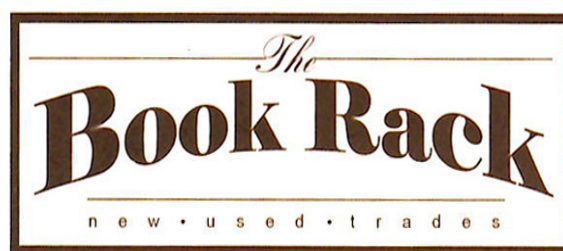




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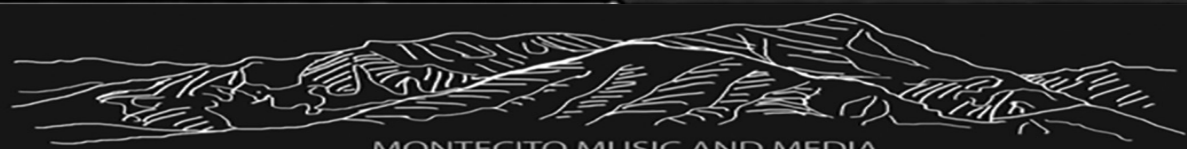


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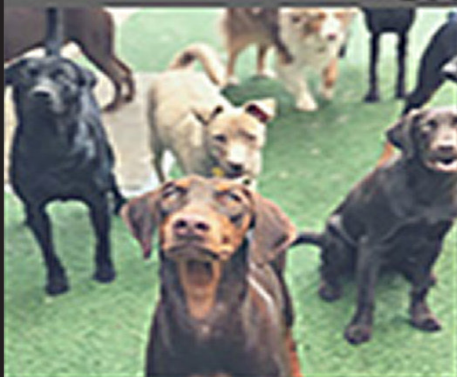
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HOW SENIORS CAN LEARN NEW TECHNOLOGY SKILLS ONLINE

*Dear Savvy Senior:*  
*Can you recommend some good technology classes or online learning resources for inexperienced seniors? I have a computer and a smartphone, but my knowledge and skills are pretty limited. Tech Challenged Senior*

Dear Senior:  
There are many different technology teaching tools available to older adults that can help you learn new tech skills so you can better utilize your devices. Here are some good options to consider.

Local classes or workshops: Depending on where you live, there may be community resources that offer beginning computer and personal technology classes, be it online or in-person, for older adults that are new to technology. To find out what's available in your area, contact your local public library, senior center, college or university, or local stores that sell computers. Your Area Agency on Aging may also be able to help you. Visit the Eldercare Locator at [Eldercare.acl.gov](http://Eldercare.acl.gov) or call 800-677-1116 to get your local number.

GetSetUp.io: This is one of the best online learning websites that partners with guides to provide training on tech tools for adults 50 and older. They provide more than 350 online classes taught in real-time by retired educators and tech industry experts in a way that lets older adults learn-by-doing, versus just watching a video.

Their technology classes – all taught via Zoom – cover things like learning how to use smartphones and tablets, how to set-up and use Zoom, how to utilize Gmail features, how to recognize online scams, how to sell your stuff online and so much more. Most of their classes are free, however some charge a small fee.

SeniorPlanet.org: Created and sponsored by national nonprofit OATS (Older Adults Technology Services) and recently joining forces with AARP, Senior Planet offers 60-and-older adults a wide variety of free online courses, programs, and activities that are taught in real-time to help seniors learn new technology skills, as well as save money, get in shape and make new friends.

Some of their more popular tech classes include “All Things Zoom,” “Everything Smartphones,” and an “Introduction to Social Media.” They even offer a “lunch & learn – tech discussion group” of-



fered at various times throughout the year where you can ask questions as well as share your struggles and experiences.

And, if you ever have a technology question that pops up during the week, you can call their National Senior Planet Hotline for tech help at 920-666-1959 anytime Monday through Friday during working hours.

OasisEverywhere.org: This nonprofit educational organization for older adults provides more than 10 low-cost/free online computer, internet and mobile technology courses for beginners. And when the pandemic dies down, they will resume offering beginner tech classes in their 27 locations (located in nine states) throughout the country.

CandooTech.com: This company provides fee-based online tech support and training to help older adults feel more comfortable with phones, computers, tablets, home safety devices and more.

Their specially trained tech concierges will teach you how to use your technology, fix what's not working and install software, as well as learn how set-up and use email, video chat, social media, online shopping and entertainment, ride sharing services and more.

They offer one-hour, one-on-one or small group sessions for \$50, or you can become a member and get two 90-minute training sessions plus unlimited quick support (30 minutes or less) for \$180 per year. They also provide device installation and set-up done remotely for \$180.

TechBoomers.com: This is a free educational website that provides video and article tutorials that teach older adults and other inexperienced technology users how to use the most popular and trusted websites, apps and devices.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of “The Savvy Senior” book.

FAMILY MATTERS By Marc Garlett



LEGAL GANGSTERS: NETFLIX'S I CARE A LOT UNCOVERS THE DARK SIDE OF LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP—PART 1

The Netflix movie *I Care a Lot* provides a dark, violent, and somewhat comedic take on the real life and not-at-all funny dangers of the legal (and sometimes corrupt) guardianship system. While the film's twisting plot may seem far-fetched, it sheds light on a tragic phenomenon—the abuse of seniors at the hands of crooked “professional” guardians.

In this two-part series, we'll discuss how the movie depicts such abuse, how this can occur in real life, and what you can do to prevent something similar from happening to you or your loved ones using proactive estate planning.

*Spoiler Alert:* This article contains spoilers for the movie *I Care a Lot*.

At the beginning of the movie, we meet Marla Grayson, a crooked professional guardian who makes her living by preying on vulnerable seniors. A professional guardian is a person appointed by the court to make legal and financial decisions for senior “wards” of the court, who are deemed unable to make such decisions for themselves.

Working with a corrupt doctor, Marla targets wealthy victims and gets a judge to order these individuals unfit to care for themselves and then appoint her as their guardian. From there, she and her business partner/ girlfriend, Fran, move the seniors into a nursing home, seize their homes, and sell all of their assets for their own financial gain.

Marla's scheme takes a turn for the worse when her latest senior victim, Jennifer Peterson, turns out to be the mother of a Russian mob boss named Roman Lunyov. After Marla has Jennifer placed in a long-term care facility, Roman tries unsuccessfully to get his mother out of the facility, first by bribing Marla, then through the court, and finally by trying to break her out.

While this may seem ludicrous, this kind of abuse actually happens outside of the movies to seniors with significant assets, even those with caring adult children like Roman.

At this point, the movie descends into a violent back-and-forth between Roman and Marla, as they each try and fail to kill one another, until they both decide that rather than murdering each other, they could make more money by going into business together.

Fast forward to several years later, we learn that Marla and Roman have become millionaires after starting a global chain of senior care services, called Grayson Guardianships, which employs thousands of crooked guardians overseeing hundreds of thousands of “clients” all over the world.

Based On True Events

With its over-the-top violence, kidnappings, and Russian mobsters, some might dismiss *I Care a Lot* as nothing but Hollywood hype and find it hard to believe that an operation as sinister as Marla's could ever actually exist. But the fact is, the movie's writer and director, J. Blakeson, came up with the idea after reading news stories about very similar (less the mob and murder) situations. And knowing such things actually happen makes the movie even more terrifying.

The Most Punitive Civil Penalty  
What makes these cases particularly tragic is the fact that for the most part everything these unscrupulous guardians did is perfectly legal. As Blakeson put it, “They had the law on their side, and there was nothing you could do.” Although guardianships are designed to protect the elderly from their own poor decisions, guardianship can turn out to be more of a punishment than a benefit.

Indeed, once you've been placed under court-ordered guardianship, you essentially lose all of your civil rights. Whether it's a family member or a professional, the person named as your guardian has complete legal authority to control every facet of your life.

Protection Through Planning  
Given the potential for neglect, abuse, and exploitation that guardianship affords, it's crucial that seniors and their families take the proper steps to prevent any and all possibility of falling prey to such scams. Moreover, because any adult could face court-ordered guardianship if they become incapacitated by illness or injury, it's vital that every person over age 18—not just seniors—take proactive measures to prepare for potential incapacity.

Fortunately, there are multiple estate planning tools that can prevent such abuse from occurring. A good estate planning law firm can put planning vehicles in place and offer ongoing advisory and support that would make it practically impossible for a legal guardian to ever be appointed—or need to be appointed—against your wishes.

Next week, we'll continue with part two of this series on the dark side of adult guardianship and offer tips for how you can avoid the potential for abuse using proper estate planning.

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

*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.GarlettLaw.com](http://www.GarlettLaw.com) for more information.*

SENIOR HAPPENINGS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...APRIL Birthdays\*

Dennis Marquadt, Howard Rubin, Anita Hardy, Hattie Harris, Wendy Senou, Mary Harley, Bette White, Dorothy White, Doris Behrens, Freda Bernard, Beth Copti, Terri Cummings, Marilyn Diaz, Virginia Elliott, Elma Flores, Betty Jo Gregg, Barbara Lampman, Betty Mackie, Elizabeth Rassmusen, Maria Reyes, Anne Schryver, Chrisine Bachwansky, Colleen McKernan, Sandy Swanson, Hank Landsberg, Ken Anhalt, Shannon Vandeveld, Wendy Senour \* 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

TEA AND TALK – SENIOR BOOK CLUB – SECOND staff is launching a new book club series the Tea and Talk that will meet virtually every other week and discuss the fun, suspense, intrigue, love and so much more that each selection will have in store!

If you are interested in participating in what I hope will become a fan favorite please call Lawren Heinz at 626-355-5278 or send an email to [lhein@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:lhein@cityofsierramadre.com). Once I have received a minimum of 5 participants I can announce the start date and tentative length of time for each selection.

The first book of this fun new program will be “Code Name Helene” by Ariel Lawhon. Based on the thrilling REAL-LIFE STORY of socialite spy Nancy Wake, comes the newest feat of historical fiction from the New York Times bestselling author of *I Was Anastasia*, featuring the astonishing woman who killed a Nazi with her bare hands and went on to become one of the most decorated women in WWII.

TAX ASSISTANCE

If you are in need of assistance with your 2020 taxes please know that help is a phone call away. Don Brunner, Tax Saver, is not accepting in person consultations at the moment but available for a phone or email consult. Please call him at 626-447-8829 or email [TAXSAVERD@gmail.com](mailto:TAXSAVERD@gmail.com)

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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:lhein@cityofsierramadre.com) and Clarissa Lowe [Clowe@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:Clowe@cityofsierramadre.com).

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



OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

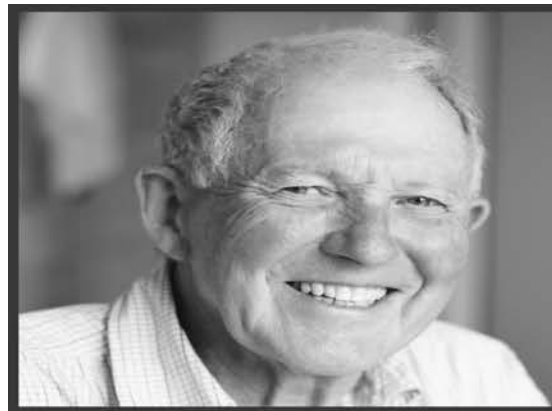
WHAT WOULD THE WORLD BE WITHOUT APPLE FRITTERS?

Stress is not something new in my life or anybody else's, for that matter. The thing about stress is that you never get used to it, or at least I don't. I don't know what I would do if one week I had no stress at all. When that happens, I'll let you know. This past week has not been one of those stress-free weeks. Starting on the very first day of the week, stress poked its nose into my business. On Monday, as I sat at my office to begin the week's work, I opened up my laptop, and I could not turn it on. It would not accept my password. I've used that password for as long as I've had the computer. However, today it would not work. I tried everything, but nothing worked except it worked up my stress level.

Finally, I had to take it to a computer store to fix it. It took them a little over an hour, but they finally fixed it. The tech also set it up so that I did not have to use a password to open up my computer. That eliminated a lot of stress. I took it home, had lunch, and then went back to the office to begin my work for the day. Already half the day is shot. When I opened up my computer, everything worked except the passwords on all of my programs. Even Facebook would not work; it did not recognize my password. For the rest of the day, I spent changing one password after another. Whoever invented the password phenomenon needs to be sued. Finally, I got everything working, and all the passwords were in place, and I could commit the rest of the week to some kind of work. I had an appointment with my eye doctor this week, having to do with my cataract surgeries. This was supposed to be the last one to make sure everything went fine. I was excited to go and get this done. Then, I could have my glasses ordered and be able to see and read simultaneously. The appointment was at 9:45, and I wanted to make sure I would not be late. I could not drive because of eye drops I was supposed to put in preparing for this exam. So, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was to be my chauffeur for the day. It was around 9 o'clock, I was dressed and ready to go, so I asked her, “Are we ready to go now?” My appointment is at 9:45.” She looked at me with one of her “looks” and said, “Are you sure it is at 9:45?” “Of course, I'm sure.” Again she looked at me and said, “What day is your appointment for?” “It's for Thursday at 9:45 in the morning.” I then

looked at her and smiled one of my greasy smiles. “Are you sure it is for Thursday?” She always tries to trick me, assuming this was one of her tricks. I just looked at her, smiled, and nodded very dramatically. “So,” she said rather hesitatingly, “what is today?” I didn't say anything; I just looked at her and then looked at my watch. “Oh, you silly boy, today is Wednesday.” I hate it when she is right! This only increased my stress level because now I had to wait a day for my eye appointment. Part of my stress this week was all the phone calls I got to renew my car warranty, each one was the last call for my renewal. By Friday morning, as I was going to my office, my stress level was the highest it's been for a very long time. I'm not very good at dealing with stress, especially when I'm the cause of it. I usually stop at McDonald's in the morning to get a cup of coffee to take to the office. As I was going through the drive-through, I happened to think a very delightful thought. Not only do they sell coffee here, but also Apple Fritters. Oh boy, when my brain starts thinking, it's hard to figure out where it's going. Leaving McDonald's with my coffee and Apple Fritter, I was very happy. There is no comfort food quite as comforting as a fresh Apple Fritter. Sitting down at my desk, I took a sip of coffee and then opened up the bag with the delicious Apple Fritter. I laid it on my desk and, just for a few moments, stared at it taking in the delightful aroma of this wonderful comfort food. I took the first bite, and a great weight began to lift off my head. It was a wonderful experience and helped me get rid of all of that stress I had. In finishing, I thought a few moments about that situation. If it were not for all the stress I experienced this past week, I wouldn't be having this wonderful experience of eating my comfort food. At least stress does have a good side to it. I remembered what Jesus said, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Sometimes I let the world stress me out, but when I look to the Lord Jesus, I see He overcomes all of my stress.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. [www.whatafellowship.com](http://www.whatafellowship.com).



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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## CHRISTOPHER Nyerges MEET JANE FULLER



MEET JANE FULLER: Singer and Guitarist

Music-lovers of the San Gabriel Valley area should know musician Jane Fuller, a resi-dent musician at Corfu restaurant on Sierra Madre Boulevard. Her performance ven-ues over the years have included the old Café 322 further down the road on Sierra Madre Blvd., Colombo's Italian Steakhouse on Colorado Blvd. in Eagle Rock, and vari-ous farmers markets and clubs.

Fuller's next project will be a YouTube live stream with the theme "It's Spring – Do Your Thing!" It is scheduled for Sunday, April 25 at 3:30 p.m., on the ApexoftheSoul channel. It will feature interesting visual effects, classic songs from various genres, and Fuller's originals. She also typically gives away prizes on the live stream. You can check the schedule page on JaneFuller.com website, or check Jane Fuller's FaceBook page. This will be a live chat, so readers can participate.

"I often play in a duo or trio," adds Fuller, "and during the April show, we're going to be experimenting with the visual effects using the green screen. It's going to be a fun show for everyone."

Fuller is a theatre arts teacher for the LA Unified School district, though all classes have been on-line for nearly a year, with no direct social interaction. In the past, she has even involved her students with her public performances.

Fuller has produced four CDs, including, "Night and Day," "You're Coming Back Again," and a Christmas CD called "The Spirit of Giving." Her most recent CD is called "Someone to Listen." Her music can be purchased online via Apple Music and Spotify.

Fuller began to play the guitar at age 10, when the folk music trend invaded the Catho-lic Church and Masses included guitars. "One of the girls at school showed me a few chords, and I had to learn quickly," she says. Fuller explains that she had a strict nun in 5th grade who pushed her into leadership positions in stage, and in organizing the music for Mass. "I had to deliver for God," she says with a laugh. "I had to learn the new songs for church, and this drove me to improve my guitar playing."

Fuller went to Alverno High School, and took classes at Pasadena City College. "I stud-ied under the famous Bobby Bradford at PCC and learned a lot about blues and jazz. I really learned a lot from him," she emphasizes.

She earned a Bachelors Degree in Creative Writing and Literature at UC Santa Cruz, and a degree in theatre arts from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Fuller looks forward to the days of live performances, since she believes that part of her mission as a musician is to support local businesses. "It's so much more than just supporting a business," she explains. "A successful business brings in people, and the people are uplifted and come together. This creates a sense of community, and it's really just like growing a garden. But in this case, the "fruit" of that garden that a healthy community produces are the people with naturally healthy immune systems."

For more information, see [www.janefuller.com](http://www.janefuller.com)



## Katnip News!



NIGEL &amp; BRIMSLEY—TOO CUTE!

Nigel, an orange and white tabby, is a gentle fellow and quite non-assuming until he gets the zoomies and starts chasing and tumbling with his brother Brimsley, a



brown tabby. He is partial to feather toys and enjoys tearing the feathers from his toy. He also likes bell balls and other plush toys. His favorite is the dragonfly toy too! He is bonded to Brimsley so the brothers must be adopted as a pair. Brimsley loves to play and is quite courageous & adventurous. He loves to wrestle and play with his brother Nigel. He loves all kinds of toys and especially loves the dragonfly wand. He is sweet and sits well for nail trims. More pictures, adoption information and application on our website at the Babies page at [www.lifelineforpets.org](http://www.lifelineforpets.org).

## Pet of the Week

Squirt is ten years old and was surrendered to the shelter with her twelve-year old mom, Eve. Squirt and her mom are bonded and hoping to find a forever home together!



Although Squirt is a little more reserved than her mom, in her foster home she's actually started meowing for attention. While Eve head butts when she wants to be pet, Squirt will lay with her paw on your arm or your face if you're not paying enough attention to her. Squirt is definitely coming out of her shell in foster care, and can't wait for a forever home for her and her mom!

The adoption fee for cats is \$100. All cat adoptions include spay or neuter, microchip, and age-appropriate vaccines.

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

View photos of adoptable pets and schedule a virtual adoption appointment at [pasadenahumane.org](http://pasadenahumane.org). Adoptions are by appointment only, and new adoption appointments are available every day at 5:00 p.m. for the following day.

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

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Sierra Madre, California

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[chris@canyoncanine.com](mailto:chris@canyoncanine.com)

626-355-8333 626-533-9536

## Know the Facts



Californians have made extraordinary sacrifices to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Help is on the way as the state begins its rollout of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. Now the work begins to Vaccinate All 58. Together, we can end the pandemic – in all of California's 58 counties.

## COVID-19 Vaccine is Here

- ▶ COVID-19 vaccine for California is here — It is safe and effective.
- ▶ California is committed to a fair and equitable allocation and distribution process. No one should bypass the established vaccine allocation and distribution process.
- ▶ California is receiving shipments of COVID-19 vaccines produced by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. Health care workers and residents in long-term care will be the first to be vaccinated.
- ▶ Individuals with the highest risk of becoming infected and spreading COVID-19 will receive vaccines first. Later in 2021, most Californians will have an opportunity to get vaccinated.
- ▶ California is working closely with community partners and stakeholders to help guide the planning process and ensure the vaccine is distributed and administered equitably.
- ▶ Vaccines are available at no cost.

## COVID-19 Vaccine is Safe and Effective

- ▶ California has its own Scientific Safety Review Workgroup comprised of immunization, public health, academic and other experts who are vetting vaccine safety.
- ▶ The Moderna vaccine is approved for those 18 years and older, consists of two doses given 28 days apart, and is 94 percent effective against COVID-19.
- ▶ The Scientific Safety Review Workgroup has confirmed that the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have met high standards for safety and efficacy.
- ▶ Sometimes vaccination can cause a sore arm, aches, fatigue or fever for a few days after getting the vaccine, but these are not harmful.
- ▶ Vaccinated individuals should keep wearing masks, washing hands and watching their distance until the vaccine has been widely distributed.

## About The Vaccines

- ▶ The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is approved for those 16 years and older, consists of two doses given 21 days apart, and is 95 percent effective against COVID-19.

**Remember, your actions continue to save lives. Wear a mask, wash your hands, keep your distance, and when it's your turn, get vaccinated.**

**For the latest facts, please visit [covid19.ca.gov/vaccines](http://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines).**

## WALK'N THE DOGS & MORE

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Medications 🐾 \$5 extra  
Email - [walknthedog9@gmail.com](mailto:walknthedog9@gmail.com)

## FREE ANIMAL HOSPITAL NEEDS YOUR HELP!

HeyO' Sierra Madre! How ya'll doing?

Your lovely local 501c3 non-profit, Free Animal Doctor, could use some stuff if you have it and don't need it! Plus a volunteer! Here are the deets (as the kids say, the kids from 20 years ago):

- 1) Towels. When we do Spay/Neuter clinics we put towels in every metal cage to make it more comfy. We also clean up with them. So if you have used towels you don't need, we need 'em! They can be stained, frayed, even a small hole here or there, just as long as they are clean. Put them in a plastic trash bag, and drop them under the mailboxes at 70 E. Montecito Ave... we cannot get enough towels! Love 'em!!
- 2) Portable canopies. Our big canopy got destroyed in the windstorm. We have a small one, but we could use one or two more. It's to shade our staff and clients when they come to the Spay/Neuter clinic and have to stand outside. Got one you don't use? We'll use it every weekend! Comment here and we'll connect.
- 3) Wanna volunteer? We need help checking pets in on Sundays and Mondays. We have about 20-25 people show up at about the same time, and we need to quickly process paperwork and get their pets safely into the clinic for surgery.

It's 730am until about 930am on Sundays and Mondays at Gate 7 of Santa Anita, right off Baldwin before you get down to the mall. You don't have to volunteer every day, but a couple times a month minimum would be good. There is a minor bit of training involved, and you get much better at it with experience, so we are looking for a bit of a commitment if you want help. Let me know, again, comment and I will arrange for us to get in touch. THANKS!!

# Pets in need

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

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

Sierra Madre based non-profit

Free Animal Doctor



## MOUNTAIN VIEWS NEWS

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### Mountain Views News Mission Statement

The traditions of community newspapers and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.

## STUART TOLCHIN



April 20th, was a very significant day. First off, it was the birthdate of former German Chancellor Adolph Hitler (remember him). Perhaps not; maybe it's all part of cancel culture assuming we can change history by simply ignoring it. It was also National Marijuana Day noted in the news along with witty asides connected to the recent State legalizations of cannabis expressing that every day is now marijuana day. The random confluence of these two occurrences for me emphasize that there is national progress, or at least change, but is it in the right direction?

I am now going to move to a discussion of this week's most publicized event, the conviction of former Police Officer Derek Chauvin, a Caucasian, of three counts related to his killing of George Floyd, an unarmed African-American male. The criminal trial of this White Police officer has already been described as the most significant trial of this new century. It has been postulated, and I am sure correctly, that the resulting conviction of the officer was highly influenced by national public demonstrations and protestations decrying the officer's actions. Of course empaneled jurors have to pledge not to be influenced by anything other than the evidence presented during the trial, an almost human impossibility. The existence of the video shown nationally and worldwide presenting the officer placing his full body weight upon the neck of a man who has been forced to lie face down on the concrete seemed to absolutely compel a conviction. The point is made that without the public awareness and pressure this criminal trial would have never taken place. The conviction has resulted in celebrations throughout the United States and many have been brought to tears by the results.

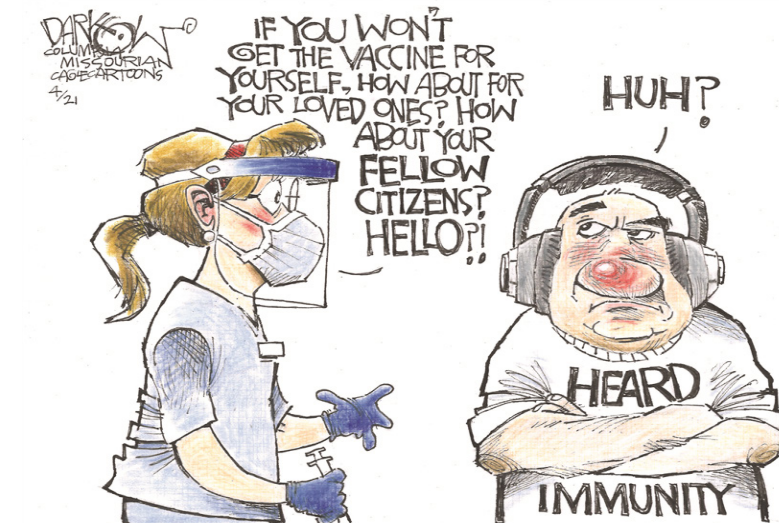
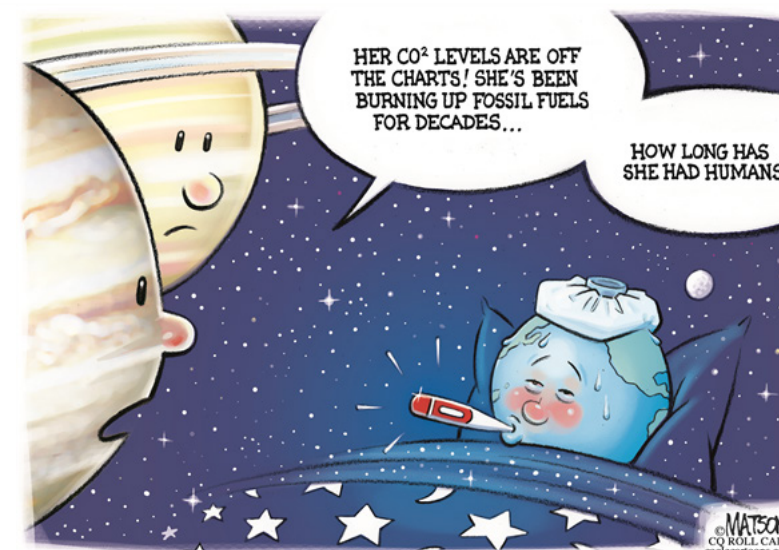
Alas, my reaction has been very different. Of course I am pleased by the conviction but from the very beginning of the pending trial's coverage I have been extremely displeased that no first degree murder count was even alleged. It is true that first degree murder requires what is called premeditation, the jury finding that the killing of the individual was intentional. The video tape of the event shows the officer contentedly applying all of his weight upon Mr. Floyd's neck while Mr. Floyd offered no resistance and pled for his life. To me there can be no doubt that this officer, with his sunglasses on his head, was relaxed enough to know exactly what he was doing. He was murdering a defenseless

## THE HUMAN(S) RACE BUT IN WHAT DIRECTION?

man who offered no resistance. The fact that the prosecution believed it too risky to put before the jury a count of first degree murder is a terrible exposition of the present state of expectations regarding actual public opinion. The prosecutors believed it too risky to ask for the maximum penalty for the act which was presented by the video tape in front of the world. What would happen if there was no conviction on this first count? Would there be demonstrations in the street. Yes, there would have been and there should have been.

Yes a precedent has been set. A cold-blooded vicious killing of a man witnessed by many and presented clearly on a video tape is not even enough to allow the prosecution to ask for a first degree murder conviction. I find this appalling and what I also find appalling is that so little attention has been given to the other officers who were present during the entire time the life was being squeezed out of Mr. Floyd. After all Derek Chauvin was their lead officer, and it was their job to support him in whatever he was doing. No wrong, absolutely wrong. Their job was at all times to act in accord with their duty to protect and serve; no, not just to protect and serve but to act responsively to their own sense of humanity and take what must have been understood to be the correct action and stop the killing.

Of course their defense would be that they were just following orders and doing what the man in authority wanted them to do. This brings us back to our old friend Adolph Hitler. Those acting under the authority of Hitler and responsible for the death of millions and millions of defenseless people also asserted at the Nuremberg trials that they could not be held responsible in that they were just following orders. As those of you familiar with the trials already know this defense was found inadequate and the defendant German officers were executed. I am afraid that many of you are simply not familiar and are unconcerned even about recent history. Much of this technologically adept present generation seems completely ahistorical and willfully ignorant and proud of it. I attribute this to the all-encompassing presence of drug abuse and alcohol abuse within this society and statistics show that the problems nationwide are increasing. Meanwhile the nation's attention is diverted from the fact that the habitability of the entire planet is being threatened. Public opinion and public demonstrations are a potential source of great power. Unfortunately this power and energy can easily be diverted to attend only to spectacle such as the O.J. trial which in the end means nothing. Even the daily political posturing which saturate the media are just a diversion of the attention which should be directed elsewhere. Yes, humans are racing but to what end and for how long is in question.



## LEFT, RIGHT OR CENTER!

### DICK POLMAN FAKE VACCINE CARDS AND THE CULT OF AMERICAN SELFISHNESS



Republican pollster Frank Luntz met last weekend with 17 vaccine-resisting Trump voters to better understand why they won't take the simple step of protecting themselves and their fellow citizens.

Their answers were predictably ignorant. One guy said, "I mean, we're just going to be shot up and shot up and shot up. We can't live like this. This is not sustainable." One woman complained about "being bullied, being humiliated, basically, by the media. I don't really see the point in getting it if nothing is going to change, and I haven't gotten sick."

But the piece de resistance was their enthused opinion about fake vaccination cards. They want one. If they were to get one, think of all the freedom they would have!

The cult of American selfishness is truly a phenomenon to behold. One woman in the Luntz focus group said she's "1,000 percent" in favor of obtaining a fake card with the CDC logo (widely available these days on eBay and elsewhere) so that she could do anything she wants. And one guy said, "If I have a fake vaccine card, yeah, I can go anywhere," especially to ballgames in parks - like Yankee Stadium - that currently require proof of vaccination. Others at the focus group table shared their desire to go to concerts or go on trips where proof of shots is mandatory.

These people are contemptible.

Their concern for the community is zero. Their self-absorption is total. Their determination to commit fraud and walk among us - to breathe among us - will spread COVID-19 (especially the variants), extend the pandemic, sicken more people and kill more people. Every health expert says this, but alas, as we well know, Freedom-lovers don't like it when the "elites" try to "bully" them.

Ask yourself this question: As life incrementally returns to something re-sampling normal, would you want to eat inside a restaurant next to an un-vaccinated idiot with a fake CDC card? Or stand shoulder to shoulder at a concert? As Nenette Day, an assistant special agent in the federal Department of Health and Human Services inspector general's office, reportedly says, "It disturbs me, having been in law enforcement this long, this flip-pant attitude that people have."

What explains this flippancy? It doesn't take a genius to connect the dots.

There is much to admire in the American creed, as we who love this country can attest. But the pandemic continues to expose the worst of us - most notably our selfish individualism. There's a crackpot belief, shared by millions, that "freedom" is a license to be irresponsible toward others, and that any requirement to care for the welfare of others is some kind of commie nanny-state diktat.

After all, one of the bibles on the American right is Ayn Rand's The Virtues of Selfishness ("To hold one's own life as one's ultimate value, and one's own happiness as one's highest purpose, are two aspects of the same achievement"). And the current icon is Donald Trump, who codified self-ishness last year when he said, "I don't take responsibility at all." In normal times, these strains of individualism are merely obnoxious. Today, they're downright dangerous.

President Biden is demonstrating that government can actually work - more than 200 million vaccination shots in less than 100 days - but his administration can't bring America back on a decent timetable if so many people plan to "own the libs" by obtaining fake vaxx cards and spreading more disease. Haven't we suffered enough already?

Tammy from Virginia said in the Luntz focus group, "I was zero (on) the vaccine. I'm still a zero." Yes, she certainly is.

Excuse me if that sounds like "bullying." I'm just thinking of the welfare of others, even if Tammy is not.

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

### CHRISTINE FLOWERS

#### SOME PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE IN A POSITION OF AUTHORITY



At a time when police are being attacked on all sides for brutality, racism, recklessness and all sorts of social sins and criminal acts, I hesitate to write this column.

I hesitate, not because I think that what I am about to say is wrong, but because words have been used as weapons and in the wrong hands, they misfire and they wound. I hesitate, because the very last thing I want to do is wound the good men and women of the fragile blue line.

On December 5, 2020, Caron Nazario, a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, was kicked and pepper sprayed when he refused to get out of his car during what turns out to be an illegal traffic stop.

The reason we are only hearing about this now after four months is that Nazario has filed a lawsuit against the small Virginia town where the assault took place. He's seeking damages in excess of \$1 million.

The video of the incident is unassailable proof that the two police officers involved in the traffic stop, allegedly due to Nazario driving his SUV with a missing license plate, don't deserve my support. If I were to extend the benefit of the doubt to them, I'd never again have the right to stand up for an officer who, in the course of putting his life on the line, is attacked by a raging mob.

One of the officers involved, Joe Gutierrez, has been fired. There's still no information on what's happening with his partner, Daniel Crocker.

Race should not be an issue, because Nazario is Afro Latino, and Gutierrez is also Latino. Race is going to be an issue, because in this climate, it's un-avoidable.

But I am a white woman who knows of white men and women who have also had problems when the police have stopped them, people who cannot be characterized by their epidermal attributes. I have witnessed some extremely unreasonable acts by those who wear the uniform, abuses in attitude and authority. None of them were justified, but none of them rose to the level of actual abuse.

Making this about race obscures a greater problem if we excuse the actions of Joe Gutierrez. And those of us who don't believe the police should be defunded and who honor their presence in our lives and communities need to speak out.

There are people who should not be in positions of authority over the rest of us. Either because of their temperaments, their lack of self-control or empathy, their inability to calmly assess a situation or their sense of

Nie-tzschean supremacy, they are unfit to hold the societal imprimatur that commands "obey me." And that's why the people who have said to me something along the lines of "Well, if you do what the police say you won't have a problem" just don't get it.

That is not supporting the police. That is enabling the bad ones to do the things that the good ones find abhorrent.

That must be what it's like to live in, say, Myanmar.

Some have said that the officers were justified in their actions because when they put their sirens on, Nazario didn't initially stop. And I understand that argument.

But the circumstances of that "stop" turned out to be illegal, since the officers were aware that Nazario had temporary plates and still pursued him. The circumstances of that "stop" were also charged because there was no reasonable suspicion that the driver had done anything wrong, that he was weaving, that he was speeding, that he was causing a threat to other drivers. They apparently had nothing other than their subjective sense that this car was not his car.

And the worst thing about it is that the driver of that car was in the military. Here you have a man wearing the uniform of his country being treated as if he was a second-class citizen, by a brutish officer who - when told by Nazario that he was afraid of getting out of the car - was told "you should be afraid."

"You should be afraid." No American should ever say that to an American soldier, an Army medic. The fact that another man in uniform said it is reprehensible.

I hate that I have to write this column, at this time. But if I remain silent when this sort of thing happens, I have no right to shout out my support for the honorable warriors who police our streets competently, courageously and with humility every day, every hour, every minute. And I have no intention of ever giving up that right.

In my daily walks, I pass by the memorial plaque that commemorates the place where Daniel Faulkner was murdered by Mumia abu Jamal. I also walk by the memorials to Charles Knox, and the mural to Sgt. Robert Wil-son.

I hope they'd understand why I wrote this column.



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