

# Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Duarte

Monrovia

Pasadena

Altadena

South Pasadena

San Marino

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2022

VOLUME 16 NO. 7

## THE WEBB-MARTIN GROUP

### HERE IS SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT 2021

Our team consistently sold our listings in less time for over asking with multiple offers on all.

In the 4th quarter alone, prices went up by 25% partially due to less homes to sell.  
This is NOT over.

If you have a home to sell, let us help you.



### Was last year really better than the year before?

#### SIERRA MADRE REAL ESTATE TRENDS

##### Single-Family Homes

	2020	2021
Total # Sold:	111	138
Average Sold Price:	\$1,166,319	\$1,392,451
Average Sq. Ft.	2,027	2,026
Avg. Price Per Sq. Ft.	\$624	\$726

##### Condo/Townhomes

	2020	2021
Total # Sold:	16	21
Average Sold Price:	\$730,275	\$746,329
Average Sq. Ft.	1,538	1,466
Avg. Price Per Sq. Ft.	\$481	\$521



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**Katie Orth** 626.688.0418  
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## CITY COMPLIES WITH NEW STATE LAWS WHILE ATTEMPTING TO SUSTAIN TOWN'S CHARACTER

By Kevin McGuire

The Sierra Madre City Council met for their third regular meeting of 2022 on February 8th. At 2 hours and 25 minutes, this was the longest meeting yet, surpassing the 43-minute session on January 11, 2022. Once again, city staff appeared remotely in separate locations. Here are some of the highlights.

Planning and Community Preservation Director Vincent Gonzalez brought before the council the Planning Commissions prioritized Municipal Code Text Amendment (MCTA) as recommended by city staff. This list was derived based on state mandates and recommendations by the Planning Commission, the City Attorney, and staff. Staff will draft ordinance amendments for consideration in the first quarter of the year to comply with state law.

The amendments include:

**Urban Lot Splits:** Ministerially approves dividing a single lot into two within a single-family residential zone.

**Small Home Lot Developments:** Ministerially approves splitting a single parcel and developing single-family units up to the maximum allowable density in a multi-family residential zone.

**Ministerial Design Review Permits:** Ministerially approves up to two new, qualified housing units in a single-family residential zone.

**Affordable Housing:** To conform to the state density bonus law under Senate Bill (SB 290) and Assembly Bill (AB 634).

**Second Units:** To conform to the chapter to new state mandates related to Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Dwelling Units.

Some ordinance "clean-up" items can be viewed on the city website.

The Planning Commissioner also suggested eight items for the priority list, including:

The reduction of the maximum allowed amount of floor area in all residential zones by 800 square feet to offset the promotion of the development of Accessory Dwelling Units. And, the creation of a list of approved arborists.

City Council wants to come back to the Accessory Dwelling Units topic for more discussion and would like staff to suggest multiple arborists.

Other than these items, Council unanimously approved the Municipal Code Text Amendments and

will direct Planning Commission to implement.

#### Discretionary Demolition Permit Procedures

The city wants to insure that potential historic resources are properly evaluated before being altered or demolished. The Discretionary Demolition Permit states that "no structure which was constructed 75 years or more before the date of the application for review shall be demolished without a Discretionary Demolition Permit."

One property that is a hot topic is 505 N. Hermosa Ave., known as the Wistaria Vine site. After the property owners did some pruning of the historic vine which is the backdrop of the logo in Sierra Madre, residents cried "foul," and demands followed to save the record-breaking vine somehow. The Discretionary Demolition Permit may help this property become a landmark despite being less than 75-years-old.

On that note...

#### Wistaria House Up for Sale...Again

In September 2021, Vicky Mak, the property owner at 505 N. Hermosa Ave. stated, "I think a lot of people thought this was a historical house, and you cannot touch anything," Mak said. "No, it is not." She noted that the trimming was done because the vine was "crushing the house" and a "fire hazard." (It should be noted that the Vine, the world's largest blooming plant did in fact destroy the home on the property in the past.)

However after the planning commission further deferred making a decision on her application to add a room to the house which would have required her to prune one of five 'trunks' of the vine, Mak, who has been unable to move in since April of last year decided to sell the property.

Her disappointment in the city's bureaucracy, the infringement on her rights as a private property owner and the hostile attitude towards her and her family by an irate resident at the planning commission and the event on September 11th when some residents trespassed on her property after rumors that they were tearing down the vine spread through town, she decided that she "was afraid to move her family to town".

So now, the property which holds the largest blooming vine is again up for grabs for a cool \$1,480,000, as listed on Zillow.

During the public comment section



### CITY OF SIERRA MADRE

## SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

### CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION

REGARDING THE MEADOWS AT BAILEY CANYON CONTEMPLATED PROJECT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022 5:00PM

MEMORIAL PARK BANDSHELL

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR

MEETING AGENDA WILL BE POSTED ON 2/7/2022  
CITYOFSIERRAMADRE.COM/AGENDAS

#### New Net Energy Metering Changes a Blow to Residents

Net Energy Metering (NEM) allows customers who generate their energy onsite (such as solar) to receive incentives.

Currently, customers who install small solar panels to generate electricity are eligible for the state's NEM program. This includes a credit on electric bills for surplus energy fed back to their utility. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is now considering NEM 3.0. This update would affect current customers by:

1. Reducing credits to 4.7 to 5.8 cents per kWh from 22 to 36 cents per kWh.
2. Increased grid participation charge of \$48 a month for the average home.
3. Retroactively reduces the period that NEM 1.0 and 2.0 customers are eligible for energy credits from 20 to 15 years.
4. Eligible low-income and disadvantaged customers would be exempt from paying grid participation charges; however, many low-income customers cannot take advantage of federal solar tax credits. Many residents have voiced strong opinions over these changes, and City Council seems to be on their side on this issue.

City Council unanimously recommended that the Energy Environment and National Resources Commission evaluate impacts on Sierra Madre residents and provide recommendations to City Council.

Note: City Council has extended the authorization to allow for remote and hybrid meetings for the next 30 days.

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# Sierra Madre POST OFFICE LANDSCAPE PROJECT



## PLEASE HELP THE SIERRA MADRE POST OFFICE!

Please help us re-landscape the Sierra Madre Post Office. We would like to make it a showplace for drought-tolerant water-saving landscaping that everyone can enjoy.

Our goal is to improve the existing appearance and provide the community with a place where they can learn about some of the best options in native plants and saving water. Additionally, we would like the Sierra Madre Post Office to be a place that represents Sierra Madre in a way that we can all be proud of and to help ensure that it remains an essential part of our community.

The work will be done by community volunteers and overseen by local experts. The project will be funded entirely by donations. All donors will receive a thank you/tax-deductible donation acknowledgement letter.

If you would like to help us with this project, please send a tax-deductible donation check payable to the "Post Office Landscape Project c/o SMCF." The mailing address is:

Sierra Madre Community Foundation,  
P.O. Box 716, Sierra Madre, CA 91025

*If you prefer to make your donation by PayPal, please scan this PayPal QR Code:*



Thank you for your support to safeguard the viability of this important Sierra Madre community resource by helping us attract people to the re-landscaped Sierra Madre Post Office. We hope that, when people come to the newly landscaped building, they will admire the planting, learn about the water saving vegetation options, and transfer that interest to their own yards.

***Thank you for your consideration!***

## THE MEADOWS AT BAILEY CANYON

The Meadows at Bailey Canyon in Sierra Madre is a proposed plan to permanently protect open space, preserve the Monastery, provide a new park with direct connection to Bailey Canyon — all while creating the most sustainable single-family community in our City's history.



Map of the proposed plan for The Meadows at Bailey Canyon.

### Protect Open Space

Permanently dedicating more than 30 acres of open space for wildlife will help expand the protection of natural lands on the City's northern boundary.

### Preserve the Monastery

The historic buildings will continue to be an iconic landmark and home to Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center and its ministries.

### Provide a New Park

A new 3-acre public park, tucked in next to Bailey Canyon, will provide a place to relax, meet neighbors for a walk or journey through a meditative labyrinth.



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# SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

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## SIERRA MADRE SPOTLIGHT

By Meghan Malooly

### THE GEM OF MOUNTAIN TRAIL

This week I am so excited to introduce you to Michael Bilbrey and Jason Agaton! If you don't know this couple by their names, I'm sure you know their home. If you've ever driven down Mountain Trail during Halloween or Christmas you've probably seen the adorable house that is completely decked out head to toe in decorations. If you haven't, you should definitely add it to your holiday checklist! They rent out the second floor of a beautiful home and have probably the coolest landlord ever. He allows them to use the front yard space to create their magical displays! Not only do they take care in decorating their home but, in recent years, they have started hosting outdoor movies on a projector in their yard. "During the pandemic when we were really staying home more we decided to transform our front space to be more user friendly and put chairs/tables, lights and in that process get a projector and screen. Jason and his brother built the frame for the screen. We initially watched movies ourselves or close friends while socially distanced. Then we used it at Halloween and Christmas as part of our displays."



When I started writing these articles I immediately thought of them (and I didn't even know who they were yet). In my mind they were this transcendent family that turned their home into the most amazing holiday themed utopia that made me smile every time I drove by! (in case you don't know or remember, I am beyond obsessed with Christmas! It's taken all of my self control to not set up a tent and live in their yard amongst the decorations.) As we all know the last couple years have been a bit crazy. The isolation has been tough on us all. Which is why I thought that it was just so incredible that Jason and Michael started offering a covid safe option for our community to be together. I am a huge movie person, to an embarrassing level, and I truly believe that movies can bring people together. Whenever I meet someone that likes a similar movie it's like they just made me a best friend bracelet (partly because I'm known for liking movies most people don't). When I first approached Michael I was very excited to interview them both and maybe get a tour of their beautiful decorations but I unfortunately contracted COVID and had to forgo the in person interview and conduct a virtual one. I think it's commendable that during such a hard time they thought about all of us. What's even more impressive is through my interview with them for this article I learned that Jason has recently had some health issues, including needing dialysis for 9 hours each night. I was already impressed with their generosity but to find out that they are going through something that serious but they're still thinking of others, just has me in awe.



Michael has always had an interest in the community and helping others and not only is he apart of the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association and applying to fill one of the empty spots on the Community Services Commission he was also past state president of the California School Employees Association, Past Board Member of The California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) and a Past vice president of California Labor Federation. He has worked for Citrus College for over 35 years and was the recipient of multiple awards for remaining on campus throughout COVID while most did not.

If you missed the chance to meet these wonderful gentlemen at their fun movie nights, don't worry! As it gets warmer, they will start playing movies again and will announce them on facebook. So please be on the lookout! They do ask that you RSVP, to keep things COVID safe, but also so they know how many people to expect, they like to provide water bottles and individualized popcorn for the guests (and sometimes glow sticks for the kids!) With Omicron they may limit the amount of people, and dates, so be sure to jump fast if you're interested! I hope to see some of you there, mask clad and movie ready!

On a personal note I would just like to say that Michael and Jason are such fantastic individuals! When my mom and I were in need and could not find a Covid test they not only dropped one off but provided chocolate and well wishes! That's what community is about, that's what this column is about, and I know it's cheesy but that's what Sierra Madre is about. We're proud, we're loyal, and we're neighbors. Just lean into the cheese people, lean into the cheese.

## Website Maintenance

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## WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

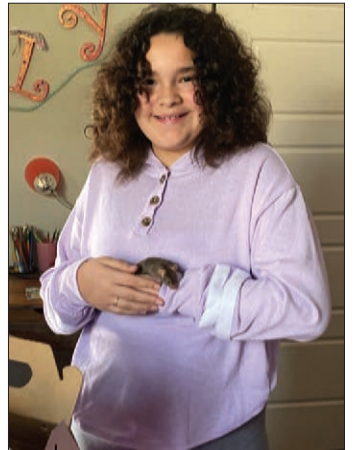
"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt." Charles M. Schulz

"Oh, if it be to choose and call thee mine, love, thou art every day my Valentine." Thomas Hood

"Love! Your Magic Spell Is Everywhere!"

That song, "Love Your Magic Spell Is Everywhere," was written by Edmund Goulding and Elsie Janis and first recorded and released by Gloria Swanson in 1929...Yes, the "I'm ready for my closeup, Mr. DeMille," Gloria Swanson! Who knew!

Today's picture shows my granddaughter, Emily Brown, who is 11 years old, and the new love of her life, a tiny mouse named Sammy. Sammy lives in his colorful plastic environment on the night table next to Emily's bed. She brought him home last Saturday and is so happy, delighted, ecstatic and over the moon to finally have the pet mouse she has been longing for. She has researched everything there is to know about mouse pets and is taking very good care of him. Emily is also discovering the somewhat questionable joy of having a nocturnal creature living next to your bed. Sammy is a party animal. As soon as she turns off the light, he comes alive and spends much of the night shoving his bedding material out of the habitat, running laps in his wheel and, if he only had a blender, he'd be making margaritas! I'm not sure how long Emily is going to keep him next to her bed, but right now, love abounds.



Valentine's Day is Tuesday! I know all my dear thoughtful and considerate readers are totally prepared with a card and maybe a flower or two. Yes, ladies, you can give your favorite guy flowers and he'll be pleasantly astonished. In days of yore, dinner reservations someplace intimate and dark where you could look into each other's eyes and talk about wonderful memories of your past, like the first kiss you shared were a definite possibility. And now that the world is opening up a little more, dinner out can happen. Or you can have something delightful delivered. Put your dinner on the good plates and prepare to enjoy a little time together. Do not talk about the children, bills or anything to do with what's wrong with the house. Enjoy that dinner with a glass of something adult and then go ahead and share a dessert. Think of chocolate... think of chocolate and champagne. Or sharing a slice of cheesecake. Do not think of calories.

"I married for love...but the obvious side effect of having someone around to help you find your glasses and car keys cannot be ignored."

"You're my perfect match. You're just like bacon, beer and chocolate. You make everything better."

There are many ways of expressing tender sentiment. Here's a question for you: When was the last time you read Elizabeth Barrett Browning's famous love poem? Probably not since you were in high school. Well, here it is and it's pretty nice:

How Do I Love Thee?

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of being and ideal grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's most quiet need,  
By sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.  
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.

Sonnet XLIII from Sonnets from the Portuguese, 1845 (published 1850)

I never actually said anything like that to my Valentine, the adorable, ever-patient, John, who is now residing in heaven where every day is Valentine's Day, and love abounds all over the place. No, I never quoted Elizabeth Barrett Browning to him, but I wrote about love and I'm sure there are a few of you out there who haven't really prepared for Valentine's Day yet so you've still got time to write a note or a letter to the person who is your own personal Valentine. Not to say I'm anywhere near Elizabeth, but I wrote about love like this... "The Best of Marriage" (excerpt)

"You are ever in my mind, even now that you are gone.  
You are still, and always will be, the other half of my heart.  
You are, very simply, the one person selected by God to be my lover, my friend, my husband.  
I knew you for more than half my life. The best half.  
We shared all there is in life:  
Joy, sorrow, laughter, tears, death, birth, pleasure, misery, poverty, not quite so poverty,  
And always, always we had each other to hold on to."

My Valentine has been in heaven for almost five years now, but I am so very glad I wrote that piece so many years ago and he read it and knew my heart.

Tomorrow or any time at all this coming week, tell your special Valentine how much he or she means to you. Kisses and holding hands are good, too...maybe even better than chocolate. Even if you totally scoff at Valentine's Day, there's never a wrong time to say I love you. And you can never say it enough!

"Love is a partnership of two unique people who bring out the very best in each other, and who know that even though they are wonderful as individuals, they are even better with each other."

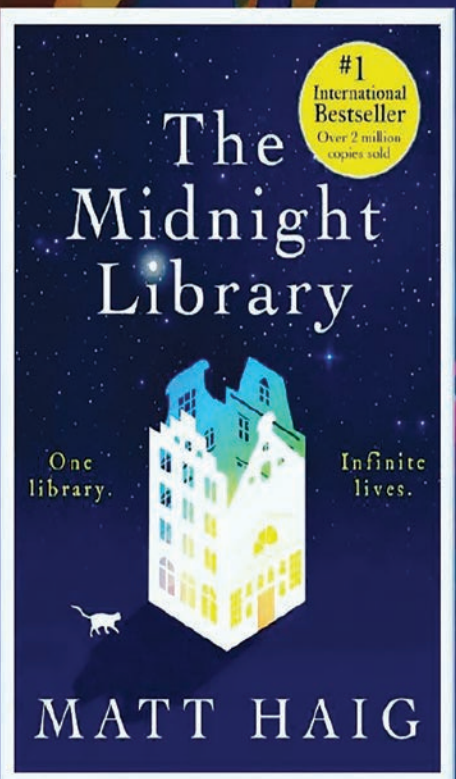
Happy Valentine's Day, dear friends and neighbors!

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis  
Easter is on its way and "The Crown"  
My story about what happened to that crown of thorns  
Is now a real book in addition to a Kindle! Also available on Amazon.com  
If you want to check it out, here's the link where you can see a short video:  
[https://youtu.be/Y\\_pCOX286T8](https://youtu.be/Y_pCOX286T8)

## SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS

# ONE BOOK ONE CITY

### Events Calendar - February 2022



**THE HEALING POWER OF STORIES**  
Saturday, February 5th—11:00 am  
Live Zoom Presentation

**WISHING WELL DISPLAY**  
Entire Month of February  
Sierra Madre Public Library

**MAKE A CHOICE: INTERACTIVE ADVENTURE**  
Begins: Monday, February 14th—11:00 am  
Ends: Saturday, February 26th - 6:00 pm

**INTERACTIVE STORYTELLERS**  
Saturday, February 19th—11:00 am  
Live Zoom Presentation

**THIRD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB**  
Thursday, February 17th—11:00 am  
Online Zoom Meeting

**OFF THE PAGE: A STAGED READING THE WORLD'S STRONGEST LIBRARIAN**  
Monday, February 28th—7:00 pm  
Sierra Madre Playhouse

Register online through Eventbrite or call the Library at (626) 355-7186 for more information.

## Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

<b>Sun</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 40s
<b>Mon:</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 40
<b>Tues:</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 40
<b>Wed:</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 40s
<b>Thur:</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 40s
<b>Fri:</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

### SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 22, 2022  
5:30 pm

### THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS!

As part of the City of Sierra Madre's COVID-19 transparency efforts and 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](mailto: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 meetings will be streamed live on Foothills Media website at [foothillsmedia.org/sierramadre](http://foothillsmedia.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).




## You're Invited!



**Get the Facts on  
Long-Term CARE**  
Presented by  
*A*  
CA Long-Term Care-Certified Agent  
**Hosted by**  
Sierra Madre Woman's Club  
February 16, 2022 6:30 – 8:00 pm  
ZOOM  
<https://nylife.zoom.us/j/91760993301?pwd=WXBPSW9RCKZiWkTWTDPRFLKOFrZDZ09&from=addon> MEETING  
ID: 917 6099 3301 PASSCODE 642013  
[GFWCSierraMadreWomansClub.org](http://GFWCSierraMadreWomansClub.org)  
SMWC's Triple Celebration Year for – 1907 – 1957 – 1972



## Wistaria Thrift Shop



550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Entrance on Sunnyside  
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Tuesdays: 9:00 am-12:00 pm or  
Wednesdays: 12:00 – 3:00 pm  
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[SierraMadreWomansClub](https://www.facebook.com/SierraMadreWomansClub)



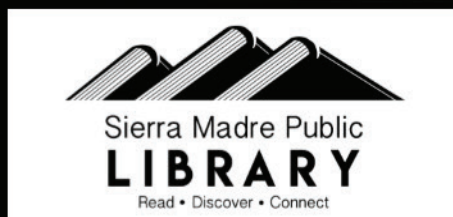
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This week at the  
Sierra Madre  
Public Library

**February 14—19**

Note: The Library building is currently closed. Contact-free service is available. Please call 626-355-7186 during regular business hours for more information.

#### Monday

**OBOC: Make a Choice**—Begin at the Library. Runs till Feb 26

**Preschool Storytime at Memorial Park**—Outdoors at 9:00 & 10:00am. Call the Library to register

**Minecraft Monday: Survival**—Online at 4:00pm

#### Wednesday

**Teen STEAM**—Outside the Library at 4:00pm

**Pajama Storytime**—Online at 7:00pm

#### Thursday

**Baby Rhyme Time at Memorial Park**—Outdoors at 9:00am. Call the Library to register

**OBOC: Third Thursday Book Club**—Online at 11:00am

#### Saturday

**OBOC: Interactive Storytellers**—Online at 11:00am

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"A flower does not think of competing  
with the flower next to it.  
It just blooms."  
Zen Shin



## Crystal Cleaners Cleaning Services

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53 n Baldwin Ave  
Sierra Madre CA 91024

Monday-Friday.....9am-6pm  
Saturday.....9am-5pm  
Sunday.....Closed



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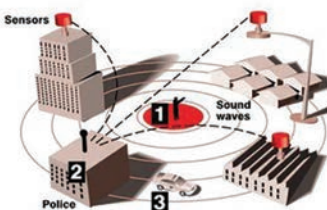
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# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## ShotSpotter Goes Live in Pasadena



Pasadena police officials announced Wednesday that the new gunshot detection system ShotSpotter is now in use making Pasadena the first city in Los Angeles County to use the controversial system.

The city council had approved, in October, a \$640,000 three year deal with ShotSpotter.

In a statement to the media, Interim Police Chief Cheryl Moody called the system a game changer.

"By installing this system, the officers of the Pasadena Police Department will be able to quickly respond, save lives and increase the chance of taking into custody those responsible for the senseless acts of violence."

Critics of the system have said it is far from perfect and can report other sounds, such as fireworks or backfiring of cars as gunfire. Residents also questioned the system's use in minority neighborhoods and its high cost. Its use is also questionable as evidence in court.

ShotSpotter has been installed in a three mile area of Northwest Pasadena. According to city data the area is north of the 210 freeway to Montana Street and Hill Avenue to the east.

In the last month, Pasadena has seen a number of shooting police say are believed to be gang related.

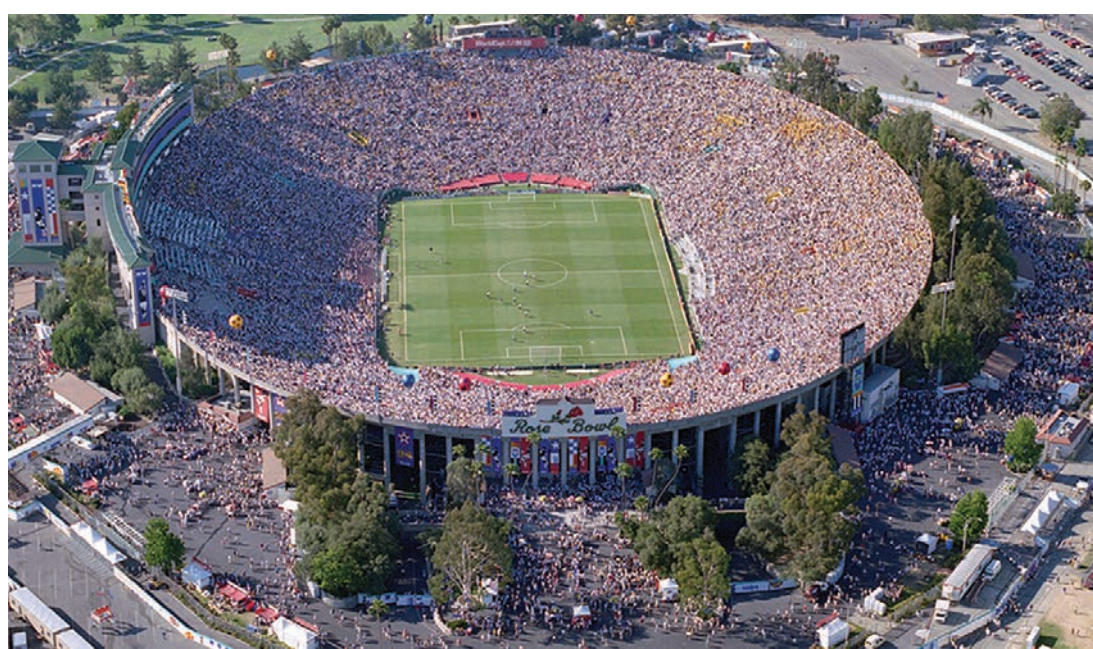
## City Council Election Filing Period

Notice has been given for the Pasadena's primary municipal election to be held on Tuesday, June 7 for Pasadena City Council Districts 3, 5 and 7. Nomination papers for candidates seeking these district seats will be available starting Monday through March 11, in the Office of the City Clerk, 100 N. Garfield Ave., Room S228. The office will be issuing nomination papers during this period to qualified candidates who are registered to vote and reside within the respective City Council district being sought. Candidates may receive and circulate nomination petitions to gather signatures of registered voters in order to have their names placed on the June 7 ballot for City Council district seats 3, 5 and 7, each serving a full four-year term.

Identical candidate workshops will be conducted by city clerk staff in the Office of the City Clerk on Monday at 8 a.m. and Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Appointments are also available by contacting city clerk staff at (626) 744-4124 or cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net.

Election information is available online or by calling the Office of the City Clerk at (626) 744-4124 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. The webpage will be updated periodically with candidate nomination information.

Voter registration information is also available in person at City Hall, public libraries, and post offices.



## ROBC Looks to Host International Soccer

The Pasadena City Council is set Monday to vote to allow the Rose Bowl Operating Company to host an international soccer match with Soccer United Marketing in September and then subsequent international soccer matches annually as part of a 5-year deal. If approved, the games would be the 20th displacement event each year through 2026.

According to the city staff report, The attendance for the games is expected to be approximately 50,000-80,000 per match.

The first 19 displacement events this year are: eight scheduled UCLA football games, the Rose Bowl Game, and 10 Music Festival dates the report reads. The report also states:

"The additional events represent a unique opportunity that will enhance the stature of the Rose Bowl." The soccer matches would be similar in terms of matchup and operations as past matches at the Stadium. The events would garnish significant publicity for the Rose Bowl and Pasadena leading up to the event and continue to contribute to the Rose Bowl's reputation as a world class venue. This is particularly applicable to these soccer matches as the stadium approaches the possibility of hosting the World Cup in 2026, and Olympic soccer in 2028.

"The revenue generating potential from the event justifies its consideration." It is estimated that each event

will directly generate in excess of \$300,000 for the RBOC for each match. In addition, the City of Pasadena would receive a positive economic impact as a result of the portion of sales tax and bed tax that will revert to the City and to businesses in the City arising from significant fan presence in Pasadena.

The council meeting will take place at 4:30 p.m. by videoconference/teleconference at: us02web.zoom.us/j/161482446.

During the meeting, members of the public may provide live public comment by submitting a speaker card prior to the start of public comment on that item at: cityofpasadena.net/city-clerk/public-comment.

## Portantino Introduces Bill to Prioritize Pedestrian & Cyclist Safety



Senator Anthony Portantino introduced Monday Senate Bill 932, a measure to prioritize pedestrian and cyclist safety by requiring California cities to take concrete steps to reduce traffic collisions and fatalities. SB 932 is sponsored by Streets For All, ActiveSGV, Calbike, and Streets Are For Everyone. Recent data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration documenting a nearly 20 percent increase in traffic fatalities in the first six months of last year.

"There is no denying it, California needs safer streets. And, despite efforts during the last several decades to make our streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists, many of our streets have grown more dangerous in recent years," Portantino said. "Data driven plans to remedy this serious problem are necessary to save lives and encourage more people to walk and bike to their destinations. An annual grant program to cities for implementing effective ways to mitigate injuries and fatalities are a good step forward and will yield positive change for our communities."

Though California has been part of a national trend to create safer streets, many cities

lack data on how to address traffic violence, deaths caused by accident, serious injuries to pedestrians, cyclists, and other human-powered-transit users. In certain cities where the most dangerous streets and corridors have been identified, no plans exist to remedy these deadly situations. Even in cities that have developed safety plans, meaningful changes that would actually save lives have yet to be implemented he said.

"In California, the general plans of cities have often been very car centric when it comes to their street network," said Michael Schneider, Founder of Streets For All. "That all changes today, with Senator Portantino's critical bill that would integrate multi-modal thinking into the planning process, helping make our streets safer for all modes and fight climate change."

SB 932 requires a county or city to include a map of the high injury network in its General Plan and would further require a county or city to identify and prioritize safety improvements within 15 years that would address serious and injurious traffic collisions. The bill would increase or decrease the 15-year implementation period, based on whether the measures introduced by a county or city achieve results to reduce percentages of traffic violence.

SB 932 creates an annual grant program to award funding to cities and counties that implement timely and effective short-term efforts to mitigate bicycle, pedestrian, and other human-powered transportation injuries and fatalities.

"Every day I'm on my bike, I learn more about the communities I represent and the areas of good bike safety and those that are not," Portantino said. "In fact, the intersection directly in front of my house is one of the most dangerous I traverse. It has been a tremendous benefit for me as a policy maker to reach out to the biking community to share my story and to collaborate on this important public safety and environmental effort."

## From the Garden with Kristin Guy



Join the Altadena Public Library Saturday, February 26 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Bob Lucas Memorial Library for From the Garden, led this month by Kristin Guy.

Kristin is a Pasadena-based horticulturalist and Master Gardener with a passion for native plants and will be discussing the local plant community and how adding certain species to your yard can reduce water and increase wildlife habitat.

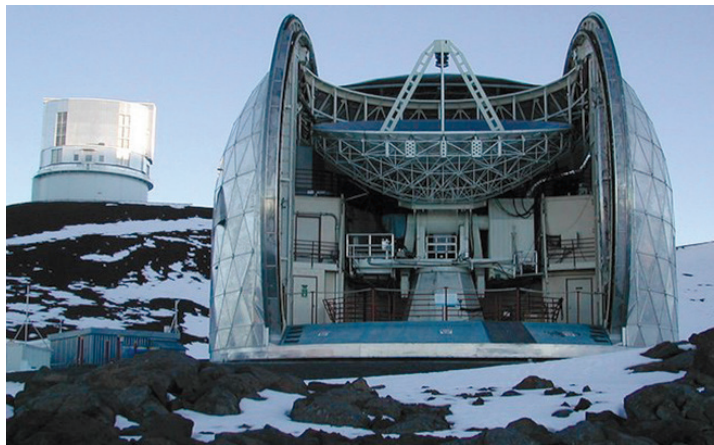
Space is limited, so registration is required.

From the Garden at the Bob Lucas Branch Library is a monthly program for community members to come work in our garden, learn about local culture and history, nutrition and gardening.

The Bob Lucas Memorial Library is located 2659 Lincoln Ave, Altadena.

For more information or to register visit: altadenalibrary.org/boblucas.

## Caltech Observatory to be Removed from Maunakea



Caltech officials announced Thursday that they received the final approval needed to begin decommissioning the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory (CSO) from Maunakea in Hawai'i.

According to a statement the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources unanimously approved, on January 14, the Conservation District Use Permit (CDUP) for the decommissioning of the CSO from the Mauna Kea Science Reserve.

"We are grateful to move forward with the deconstruction process," said Sunil Golwala, Caltech physics professor and CSO director. "Caltech aims to undertake the decommissioning this summer, with removal and restoration completed by the end of 2022." This will be the first observatory removed under the 2010 Decommissioning Plan for Maunakea Observatories.

During the observatory's lifespan, the CSO was one of the world's premier facilities for astronomical research and instrumentation development at submillimeter wavelengths. Discoveries made at the facility include an elucidation of the role of atomic carbon in the space between stars, a new

phase of stellar evolution for red giant stars, the first ground-based detection of heavy water in a comet, and more.

The CSO's 10.4-meter submillimeter telescope, which came online in 1987 for use in research by astronomers at Caltech and other institutions, is housed in a compact dome near the summit of Maunakea. The telescope was used by many scientists, including almost 200 student and postdoctoral researchers. All the astronomical instruments were removed from the facility in 2015.

The CDUP is the culmination of a careful process required under Hawai'i law to address technical aspects of the CSO's removal and the restoration of its site, including a detailed review of the potential cultural and environmental impacts. The CDUP sets the terms and conditions Caltech must follow during the decommissioning. Copies of the CDUP, the final environmental assessment, and other planning documents can be found at: cso.caltech.edu/wiki/cso/outreach/outreach.

A summary of CSO's contributions to astronomy and astronomical instrumentation is available at: cso.caltech.edu/wiki/cso/science/overview.

## Contest to Raise Awareness of the Armenian Genocide

State Senator Anthony Portantino announced Thursday that the California Armenian Legislative Caucus is holding two scholarship contests for the 2022 remembrance of the Armenian Genocide. California high school students from 9th grade through 12th grade are invited to participate in an essay contest and/or a visual arts contest to increase greater awareness of the Armenian Genocide on its anniversary.

All winners will be contacted directly and announced by the California Armenian Legislative Caucus on April 15. All winners will be awarded scholarships and will be acknowledged at the California Armenian

Legislative Caucus' annual Armenian Advocacy Day and receive special recognition from the members of the Armenian Caucus. Original artwork will possibly display in the California State Capitol.

Students may enter both contests, but submissions must be entered separately. Essay Scholarship Awards: First Place: \$1,000 Second Place: \$750 Third Place: \$500 Visual Art Scholarship Awards:

First Place: \$1,000 Second Place: \$750 Third Place: \$500

The deadline for all essay and visual arts submissions is April 8, 2022. For questions contact Ryan Ahari via email at: ryan.ahari@asm.ca.gov.

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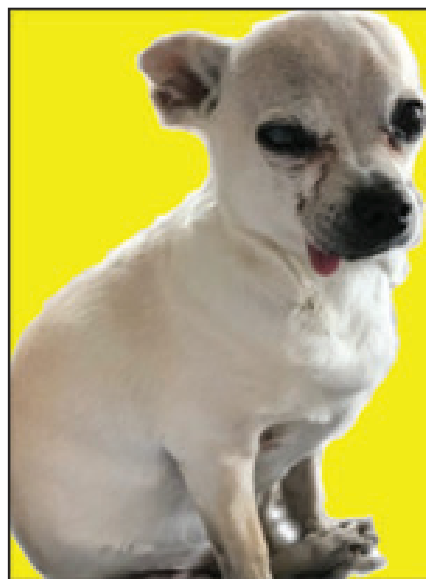
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# AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

## MOSQUITOES EXPECTED TO INTERCEPT WEEKEND FESTIVITIES -MORE THAN 500% INCREASE IN MOSQUITO ACTIVITY DETECTED THIS WEEK COMPARED TO SAME WEEK IN 2021



A mosquito taking a blood meal

West Covina, Calif. (February, 10 2022) — Football isn’t the only big game this weekend as mosquitoes are expected to score touchdowns in yards and patios in San Gabriel Valley — a region in Los Angeles County. Mosquito trap data from the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District (SGVMVCD) shows the average mosquito activity this week is 517.83% higher compared to the same week as last year. The average mosquitoes per trap this week was 19.40. The same week in 2021 was 3.14. In fact, more mosquitoes were collected with less traps this week compared to the same week in 2021. “Temperatures aren’t the only highs this week as we buzz into the weekend,” said SGVMVCD Vector Ecologist Kimberly Nelson. “Higher temperatures cause mosquitoes to go through their life cycles more quickly.” Tips to stay bite free

- Tip out stagnant water weekly - Mosquitoes will use stagnant water to lay their eggs. Their larvae will grow in the water in about a week.
- Toss unused containers - Forgotten containers left outside can collect stagnant water.
- Protect with mosquito repellent - Pick up a bottle and look for any one of the following ingredients: Oil of lemon eucalyptus, picaridin, IR3535 or DEET.

“If you’re tired of mosquito bites, the best defense is to use mosquito repellent,” said Levy Sun, SGVMVCD communications director. “Mosquitoes will exist to some degree in our city environments, but we can prevent them from biting us.”

Repellents containing any one of the four active ingredients are effective against mosquitoes: Oil of lemon eucalyptus, picaridin, IR3535 or DEET.

Only female mosquitoes bite. Mosquitoes use the blood to create the eggs. However, in the process of biting, mosquitoes can leave behind itchy bumps and can make people sick.

In Los Angeles County, the most pervasive mosquito-borne disease threat is West Nile virus. Zika, yellow fever, and dengue fever pose an outbreak possibility due to the presence of invasive Aedes mosquitoes.

## COVID-19 vs. Allergies

	COVID-19	Allergies
<b>Fever or chills</b>	✓	✗
<b>Cough</b>	✓	✓
<b>Body aches</b>	✓	✗
<b>Headaches</b>	✓	✓
<b>Tiredness</b>	✓	✓
<b>Loss of taste or smell</b>	✓	✗
<b>Shortness of breath</b>	✓	✗*
<b>Sore throat</b>	✓	✓
<b>Sneezing</b>	✓	✓
<b>Itchy or watery eyes</b>	✗	✓
<b>Runny or stuffy nose</b>	✓	✓

\*Seasonal allergies do not usually cause shortness of breath, unless a person has a respiratory condition such as asthma that can be triggered by pollen.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## The Chef Knows *By Peter Dills*

### SUPER BOWL AND VALENTINE’S DAYS OF FOOTBALL AND ROMANCE

First of all, let’s agree to disagree: Valentine’s Day should be a full week long. A single day is not long enough to fully express one’s love.

What do you say about having an evening at home with a bottle of bubbly and a candlelight table for dinner?

You may wonder why a critic would dare such treason. In all truth, it’s an impossible night for restaurants, so let’s find three bottles in price ranges you can live with.

In the \$10 price range, Ruffino Prosecco has been produced from grapes grown in the hilly area of Valdobbiadene, which is the most historically active region for the production of prosecco.



Bright straw yellow with fine bubbles, the bouquet is fragrant and intensely fruity, with clean notes of apples, pears and citrus. I found it crisp, clean, and yet delicate - a perfect wine for the budget-minded lovebird.

From the \$20 range, let’s go back to Paso Robles for the San Simeon Petite Sirah. I enjoyed this well-bodied wine with a pre-Valentines dinner of lobster thermidor. This wine is not for the “beginner” (nor is cooking lobster thermidor), and brings strong notes of fruit when opened with a well-rewarded and long finish.

My \$30-range selection is the Domaine Carneros. My opinion is that this estate-bottled wine gets as close to a “real” French champagne as any California sparkler on your supermarket shelves. This cuvee is 51% chardonnay and 49% pinot noir, with an alcohol content of a modest 12.1%. I got a perfect “pop” upon opening the bottle, which I poured into a lightly chilled flute and watched the bubbles rush to the top. The flavor was a little toasty in the beginning with a clean, long finish. You have my permission to drop a strawberry in your glass for this special occasion.

Joined my podcast revolution yet? Peter Dills Subscribe today

## LA COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

LA County and Cincinnati Public Health Departments Congratulate the Rams and Bengals and Encourage Safety Measures as Residents Gather to Watch the Super Bowl  
LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Cincinnati Health Department are joining together to encourage residents and visitors in Los Angeles County and Cincinnati to gather safely when watching the Super Bowl game between the Cincinnati Bengals and the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday, February 13.

The health departments want to caution residents that COVID-19 spreads more easily in closed spaces with poor airflow, crowded indoor areas where there are many people from different households, and crowded indoor and outdoor settings where people are unmasked and chanting or shouting together. For all of these situations, there are sensible safety measures that everyone can use to have a safe game day.

Smaller gatherings are recommended as mixing with different households increases the risk of infection. People should also gather outdoors, if possible, and if you can do it safely, move the TV outside or plan to serve food and drinks outdoors. If having an outdoor Super Bowl gathering isn’t possible, it is recommended that organizers improve airflow, including using fans or portable air cleaners, or running the heat or air conditioning.

Residents should also consider getting a rapid test as close to the start of the gathering as possible, especially when gathering indoors with people who are unvaccinated and/or are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Rapid tests, including over-the-counter (OTC) self-tests, provide a result in 15-30 minutes. Residents can also find a testing site in LA County at <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/> or in Cincinnati at <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/health/covid-19/covid-19-testing/>

Wearing an upgraded mask (such as an N95, KN95, or KF94) while not eating or drinking also adds stronger protection, especially if the gathering is crowded with unvaccinated guests, people with unknown vaccine status, or people who are at higher risk of severe illness.

Individuals will benefit from getting boosted or vaccinated as soon as they can, as it will help protect themselves, and their friends and family at Super Bowl gatherings. Residents in LA County can visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://VaccinateLACounty.com) (LA County), and Cincinnati residents can go to [Cincinnati-OH.gov/health/covid-19/](https://Cincinnati-OH.gov/health/covid-19/) to find vaccine information or to schedule an appointment.

Fans who plan to go to a bar, restaurant, or to SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles County to watch the game, should follow all county rules at the venue and check specific venue’s COVID-19 requirements ahead of time, which are likely to include vaccine verification and masking requirements.

“LA County is proud to partner with the Cincinnati Health Department to encourage everyone in both of our communities to have a great time and celebrate the exceptional achievements of our respective teams while doing everything we can to protect ourselves and those around us from COVID-19,” said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. “This an exciting time for Los Angeles County and for Cincinnati, and there are sensible safety measures we can easily do that help prevent exposure and transmission. We have survived the past 2 years by taking care of each other and using the tools available to reduce spread of this damaging virus. We can do the same for the Super Bowl. Whether you are gathering at the stadium, a bar or restaurant, or at someone’s home, let’s rely on each other to stay safe by taking those small steps that make a difference. Wear a high-quality mask, get tested before gathering, gather outdoors whenever possible, and get boosted or vaccinated this week if eligible.”

"Our community is thrilled and excited to celebrate the success of our Bengals and offer our congratulations to LA County and the Rams for their achievement in reaching the Super Bowl!" Melba R. Moore, DBA, MS, CPHA, Cincinnati Health Commissioner. "As we head into Super Bowl weekend, we want everyone traveling to LA or gathering in Cincinnati to watch the game to have fun, show their enthusiasm and to take a few sensible precautions to keep themselves and others safe."

### COVID 19 Cases Still Rising:

**WHERE WE ARE W/E 2/12/22 VERSUS LAST WEEK 2/05/22**  
*Cases/Deaths are still occurring especially among the unvaccinated.*

Cases	This Week ( 02/12/22)	Deaths	This Week (02/05/22)
LA County	2,746,866 (2,683,644)		29,690 (29,099)

**LA COUNTY VACCINATIONS AS OF 02/12/2022 (Fully)**  
**Adults 12+ 86.8%      Seniors 98.7%**

(Last Week)	Cases	Deaths	Fully Vaccinated
Arcadia	7,611 (7391)	157 (155)	89.9%
Altadena	8031 (7848)	88 (86)	82.3%
Bradbury	61 ( 56)	0 ( 0)	71.1%
Duarte	4,986 (4880)	113 (111)	83.3%
Monrovia	7,964 (7766)	96 (90)	80.4%
Pasadena	27,129 (26262)	385 (382)	84.7%
Sierra Madre	1,454 (1415)	15 ( 15)	88.9%
So.Pasadena	3,792 (3708)	53 ( 53)	93.9%

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Office Hours at 6:00 PM: 11/16, 12/14, 1/18, 2/15, 3/15, 4/19, 5/17

Any Questions? Email Liz Arnold: [larnold@yhpasadena.org](mailto:larnold@yhpasadena.org)

## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

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 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 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: [pclarke@arroyopacific.org](mailto:pclarke@arroyopacific.org)

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

Bethany Christian School  
 93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
 (626) 355-3527  
 Preschool-TK-8th Grade  
 Principal: Jonathon Hawes  
 website: [www.bcsilions.org](http://www.bcsilions.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)

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 Dr. Jamal Adams

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://phs.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  
 Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166  
[www.waldenschool.net](http://www.waldenschool.net)

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

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

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 351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109  
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## CHRISTOPHER Nyerges



## CHILDHOOD'S END

[Nyerges is a teacher and author of many books; more information can be had at [www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com](http://www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com)]

I hadn't been able to sleep much the night before, so I arose very early. It was Saturday, and the sun had not begun to rise over the hills to the east. It was very quiet, and I could actually feel the collective heave and sigh of relief as the city took a break from the madness of racing around day after day so you can afford to do whatever it is that you believe you'd rather be doing than racing around every day making money.

The streets were still dark, and cool, and devoid of people. I began to bicycle through the city streets, first working my way through the downtown apartment areas, and then gradually north where there were more trees and bigger yards. The mountains were glowing with the rising sun, and by now the sky was light and birds were chirping everywhere. A few cars were now on the road, and an occasional jogger whished by on the sidewalk.

The city was magical when everyone slept. Oh, I knew that there was some chance of encountering no-good criminals who would try to accost or rob me -- that's part of the tightness of the city. But everyone seemed to be asleep, even the muggers. I didn't even see homeless, for they too were tucked away in whatever spots they'd found for staying warm.

The sun took its time in rising and the sky was overcast and cloudy on this early Saturday morning. A cool breeze blew down the city streets as a mountain breeze might blow down a canyon. Where you'd expect to see hawks perched high in the tallest mountain trees, I saw pigeons perched on the edges of the tall buildings. No matter what man does, nature usually adapts, and ultimately overcomes.

I began to bicycle to the north, towards the mountains. What had been a truly casual and leisurely ride was now becoming a bit of work as I went uphill closer to the foothills of the San Gabriel range. I slowly rode to the very base of the mountains and watched a group of Boy Scouts unloading from the family vans and station wagons and loading on their backpacks for a day or weekend of adventure. I could see the excitement in their faces and hear it in their voices. For most of them, this would be a first adventure in campcraft.

I turned my bicycle around and began to coast back down the hill, and after a few miles, I turned down a street where a family I knew lived. I slowly bicycled by and saw that only Jim, the young six-year-old, was out in the yard playing. I said hello, and he recognized me and said hello. He asked me if I wanted to see the dirt people. I got off my bike, and got down on my hands and knees, and he showed me the little tunnels and trails of the dirt people, and he showed me where they lived, and how they drove around on little pebbles. He pushed a pebble with a long stick, and made a sound like an automobile engine.

"See how they go?" he said, excited. "Make yours go," he commanded, and so I began to push a little pebble around with a stick. I had to make sounds like a car when the dirt people wanted to turn quick or stop suddenly, and I had to keep the pebble on the roads that Jim had built. Jim told me about the monsters that come out sometimes and the dirt people have to run and hide, because the monsters are so powerful.

He pointed to a little ant that had come out of a hole, and Jim gave voice to the monster-ant: a slow, deep growl as it walked along the dirt people's road. I was informed that the monster always takes the easy path along the dirt people's road, because the monster was lazy. That was its weakness, and the dirt people could use that fact to their advantage when they wage a war against the monsters.

Each pebble, each leaf, each stick, each undulation of the ground had a name and a meaning in Jim's world into which I had entered. I was lying there in the dirt with him, pushing a pebble, making sounds, and truly enjoying myself when his mother came out.

"What are you guys doing?" she asked to both of us, but really to me.

Jim responded, "The dirt people are all getting together because the monsters are getting ready to invade. We watched the monsters begin the war, and the dirt people are now all trying to defend themselves, right?" he looks at me.

His mother looks at me sideways, noting that I am covered in dirt as is Jim. She smiles, and says only "Oh." She just stands there and looks, and I know that it means nothing to Jim, but I feel the censure of an adult in the adult world, and I realize that I should feel embarrassment. When I think about it, I realize that I did feel a little embarrassed, but mainly because somehow I've been taught that some things are for children and some things are for adults. Adults are not allowed entry into the make-believe world of children, at least not by other adults.

So after a while, I got up, and shook off the dust. I told Jim's mother that I was just passing by, and I said goodbye to Jim. Sobered up to proper reality, I rode on, and eventually headed back home.

I had truly enjoyed myself lying there in the dirt, without video games or electronic entertainers which so many of today's youth are addicted to. We were enjoying a simple pleasure of life that required nothing but an active imagination and the ability to believe. And that's what's wrong with adults. Our bodies got older and we allowed our minds to ossify. We put aside imagination for pragmatism, and we gave up the ability to believe for hard-earned cynicism.

That morning, I realized that childhood ends when you can no longer lie in the dirt and imagine.

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## Katnip News!

BILLY & BOBBY:  
SUPERSWEET!

These two will capture your heart for Valentine's Day and beyond! They are handsome boys and are very sweet and playful. Bobby is a tuxedo, with just the cutest white whiskers and paws, while Billy is all shiny and sleek black. Both are "great, energetic, fun, affectionate, and healthy."

They are mellow and especially love to be petted. They'll be adopted together, because they are besties and always have each other to play and snuggle with when you're not around. Both boys love to play with toys. Purr-ty please consider adopting this purr-fect pair! See more pictures and videos of them on our website's Teens page. Just submit your application at Lifeline for Pets: [www.lifelineforpets.org](http://www.lifelineforpets.org).



## Pet of the Week

Four-year-old Buttercup came to us as a stray cat with a litter of kittens. Now, she's ready to live a cozy indoor life! Buttercup is a little shy at first and needs some time to adjust to new people and surroundings, but once she does, her affectionate side starts to show. Buttercup enjoys head scratches and petting, and purrs a lot when she gets attention. She even gives a gentle head butt when she wants more pets, and is learning to play with toys!



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 an adoption appointment at [pasadenahumane.org](http://pasadenahumane.org). Adoptions are by appointment only, and new adoption appointments are available every Sunday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

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

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SIERRA  
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PlayhouseANNOUNCING THE SIERRA  
MADRE PLAYHOUSE SOLO  
SHOWS FESTIVAL; BEGINS  
FEBRUARY 25

Sierra Madre Playhouse is beginning our return to live performances with a series of one-person shows that we're calling the Sierra Madre Playhouse Solo Shows Festival.

Covid-19 safety protocols in effect on performance dates will be observed. As of this writing, that means audiences will be masked and asked to show proof of vaccination, by vax card or digital record. Here's what we have lined up for you:

February 25-27, 2022: Billie: Backstage with Lady Day. Synthia L. Hardy stars as jazz and blues legend Billie Holiday. Billie talks about her life and times to reporters back-stage, before giving a concert where you'll hear the hits that made her famous. Written by Synthia L. Hardy. Directed by Bryan Rasmussen. Synthia is backed by a four-piece live jazz ensemble.

March 4-6: Frank Ferrante's GROUCHO. Frank Ferrante returns to Sierra Madre Playhouse to perform his internationally renowned show as legendary comedian Groucho Marx, with stories, jokes, and famous novelty songs (Hooray for Captain Spalding!, Lydia the Tattooed Lady).

April 2-3: EINSTEIN! Writer-performer Jack Fry portrays young Albert Einstein, whose world is in turmoil as he fights to establish his Theory of General Relativity, which would affect profoundly the technology of the 20th and 21st Centuries. An inspiring and true story.

April 9-10: INDEPENDENCE: The True Story of Dr. Mary Walker. Combat veteran. Battlefield physician. Abolitionist. Suffragist. Feminist. American hero. Kathie Barnes stars as Dr. Mary Walker in the real, inspiring story of the first and only woman to win the Congressional Medal of Honor. Written and directed by Lloyd J. Schwartz.

April 23-24: An Evening with John Wilkes Booth. America has a fascination with true-crime stories, and this is the most infamous true-crime story of all. The question re-mains: Why?

Stephen Spiegel stars as the notorious assassin. Written by Lloyd J. Schwartz and Clinton Case. Directed by Lloyd J. Schwartz.

There you have it: A series of five shows starring five remarkable performers portraying five real-life individuals whose lives made a difference in the world in which they lived.

Sierra Madre Playhouse Solo Shows Festival is produced by the Playhouse's Interim Artistic Director Gary Lamb.

Tickets will be available either for individual shows or via a flex-pass subscription. Go to <http://sierramadreplayhouse.org> or call (626) 355-4318. The flex-pass subscription will offer you a break on ticket prices.

Sierra Madre Playhouse is located at 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre, CA 91024. This is just east of Pasadena. There is free parking available in a municipal lot behind the Playhouse, and in a lot across the street, as well as street parking. There are several dining establishments just steps from the Playhouse.

The Sierra Madre Playhouse Solo Shows Festival: Your tickets to five nights of theatrical enchantment, LIVE on stage. Join us.

**SIERRA MADRE Playhouse**  
Solo Shows Festival

February 25-27	March 4-6	April 2-3	April 9-10	April 23-24
Billie! Backstage with Lady Day	Frank Ferrante's GROUCHO	EINSTEIN!	INDEPENDENCE: The True Story of Dr. Mary Walker	An Evening with John Wilkes Booth

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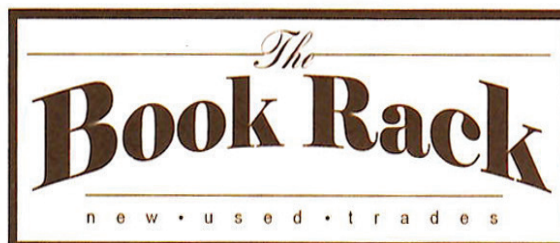
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## DO I HAVE TO FILE INCOME TAX RETURNS THIS YEAR?

Dear Savvy Senior:

What is the IRS standard tax deduction for 2021? I didn't file a tax return last tax year (2020) because I lost my job and my income in March due to COVID. But I got a part-time job in 2021 and am wondering if I made enough money that requires me to file this year.

Part-Time Retiree

Dear Retiree:

Whether or not you are required to file a federal income tax return this year depends not only on how much you earned last year (in 2021), but also the source of that income, as well as your age and your filing status.

Here's a rundown of this tax season's IRS tax filing requirement thresholds. For most people, this is pretty straightforward. If your 2021 gross income – which includes all taxable income, not counting your Social Security benefits, unless you are married and filing separately – was below the threshold for your filing status and age, you may not have to file. But if it's over, you will.

Single: \$12,550 (\$14,250 if you're 65 or older by Jan. 1, 2022).  
Married filing jointly: \$25,100 (\$26,450 if you or your spouse is 65 or older; or \$27,800 if you're both over 65).  
Married filing separately: \$5 at any age.  
Head of household: \$18,800 (\$20,500 if 65 or older).  
Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child: \$25,100 (\$26,450 if 65 or older).

To get a detailed breakdown on federal filing requirements, along with information on taxable and nontaxable income, call the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a free copy of the "1040 and 1040-SR Instructions for Tax Year 2021," or you can get it online at IRS.gov.

Check Here Too

You also need to be aware that there are other financial situations that can require you to file a tax return, even if your gross income falls below the IRS filing requirements. For example, if you earned more than \$400 from self-employment in 2021, owe any special taxes like an alternative minimum tax, or get premium tax credits because you, your spouse or a dependent is enrolled in a Health Insurance Marketplace plan, you'll need to file.

You'll also need to file if you're receiving Social Security benefits, and one-half of your benefits plus your other gross income and any tax-exempt interest exceeds \$25,000, or \$32,000 if you're married and filing jointly.

To figure all this out, the IRS offers an online tax tool that asks a series of questions that will help you determine if you're required to file, or if you should file because you're due a refund. It takes approximately 12 minutes to complete.

You can access this tool at IRS.gov/Help/ITA – click on "Do I Need to File a Tax Return?" Or you can get assistance over the phone by calling the IRS helpline at 800-829-1040.

Check Your State

Even if you're not required to file a federal tax return this year, don't assume that you're also excused from filing state income taxes. The rules for your state might be very different. Check with your state tax agency before concluding that you're entirely in the clear. For links to state tax agencies see Taxadmin.org/state-tax-agencies.

Tax Prep Assistance

If you find that you do need to file a tax return this year, you can free file through the IRS at IRS.gov/FreeFile if your 2021 adjusted gross income was below \$73,000.

Or, if you need some help, contact the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (or TCE) program. Sponsored by the IRS, TCE provides free tax preparation and counseling to middle and low-income taxpayers, age 60 and older. Call 800-906-9887 or visit IRS.treasury.gov/freetaxprep to locate services near you.

You can also get tax preparation assistance through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide service. Call 888-227-7669 or visit AARP.org/hndtaxhelp for more information.

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



## FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett

### PURCHASING LIFE INSURANCE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Life insurance is a key component of your family's estate plan, offering a safety net to those who depend on you for their financial security. And although purchasing life insurance may seem straightforward, it can be quite complex, especially given all the different types of coverage available. When it comes to life insurance, you will want coverage in place if any of the following scenarios apply:

1. You are likely to have dependents—minor children, a non-working spouse, or senior parents—who rely on you for their financial needs, and you will likely not have enough saved up to continue to provide for those needs after your death.
2. You have a business that will need a cash infusion if you die to keep it running, until it can be sold or for your loved ones to buy out a business partner.
3. You have a potential estate tax bill that you want to cover with life insurance, so your family doesn't have to sell assets to pay the taxes.

#### Betting On Your Life

A life insurance policy pays benefits to your family or business (whomever you choose as the beneficiary) in the event of your death. And the earlier in life you purchase your policy, the less expensive your monthly or annual premiums will be. By the same token, the healthier you are when you get life insurance, the less you'll pay in premiums, because your policy is basically a bet between you and the insurance company about when you'll die.

The insurance carrier is betting they'll be able to earn enough from the premiums you pay before you die, so they'll have received more than enough money to pay out the death benefit to your designated beneficiaries when you pass away. As such, many carriers require a medical exam before your policy is issued.

Life insurance comes in two main forms, which you can think of as permanent and temporary. With permanent coverage, such as whole life and universal life, as long as you pay the premiums, your insurance cannot be canceled, and your policy will pay out when you die (unless you live longer than the guaranteed period).

With temporary coverage, known as term life insurance, you pay premiums over a certain number of years—usually 10, 20, or 30—and if you have not died during that period, the insurance ends, your premiums are gone, and no benefits are paid out when you die.

#### Term Life Insurance

Because your coverage expires after a certain number of years, term life insurance is much cheaper than permanent. Term policies are typically used by people who expect that they'll only need the insurance for a certain period or for a certain purpose.

For example, you might purchase term insurance to cover your home mortgage in the event you die before it's paid off. Or you might have minor children, who rely on your income for their basic needs, and you need a term policy to ensure they have enough money to live on until they become financially independent should you die before they reach adulthood.

#### Permanent Life Insurance

Permanent life insurance comes in several different forms, such as whole life, universal life, and variable universal life. And it's mostly used for estate tax planning, very high-end income tax planning, and key-person insurance, which pays out benefits if you fill a vital role in a company that would need cash upon your death to continue operating. As mentioned earlier, the various forms of permanent life insurance pay a death benefit whenever you die, no matter how long you live (unless the policy contract has a termination provision at a specific age).

Permanent life insurance policies typically have two components: the amount that goes toward paying for the life insurance, and the amount that builds up as an investment, called the "cash value" component. The cash value amount of your premium is invested tax-free, and depending on the policy, you may be able to use the cash value component in several ways: you can borrow against it throughout your lifetime (in which case you pay interest to the insurance company), you can take out cash withdrawals (in which case your death benefit would be reduced accordingly), or you can use it to pay future premiums.

#### Your Trusted Advisor

We all have unique assets, liabilities, and family situations, so there's no way to know exactly what types and amounts of life insurance coverage your family needs without a full evaluation. Talk to your life insurance agent/broker or let us know if you need help finding one.



# SENIOR HAPPENINGS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...February Birthdays\*



Tracy Verhoeven, Beatrice DaRe, Catherine Adde, Hilda Pittman, Anne-Marie Stockdale, Susan Henderson, Allie Attay, Ursula El-Tawansy, Gladys Moser, Sylvia Lorhan, Ana Ptanski, Winifred Swanson, Janet Gillespie, Marian DeMars, Vickie Vernon, Mary Beth Knox, Sharon Lefler.

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



**The Hart Park House Senior Center is currently closed for indoor use. Programming will resume March 1st, 2022.**

**Please call 626-355-5278 for assistance.**

<u>Sierra Madre</u> <u>City Hall</u>	<u>Hart Park House</u> <u>Senior Center</u>
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### ONGOING PROGRAMS IN THE COVERED PAVILION

#### CHAIR YOGA

Every Monday and Wednesday, 10-10:45 am

Please join us for some gentle stretching, yoga, balance exercise and overall relaxation with Paul. Classes are ongoing and held in the Memorial Park Covered Pavilion.

#### HULA & POLYNESIAN DANCE

Every Friday, 10-10:45 am

Bring a lei, your flower skirt or just your desire to dance! Hula in the Park is back and waiting for you to join in on all the fun! Memorial Park Pavilion.

#### TAX ASSISTANCE

Wednesday 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Beginning February 2nd – April 6th, Don Brunner is available for income tax consultation. Appointments are required: Please call 626-355-5278 x704.

## OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

### WHEREEVER THEY ARE I WILL FIND THEM!



Recently, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and her spouse took a short vacation that was long overdue. Vacations are very hard to organize and schedule when you have a busy life. But, thanks to the ingenuity of my wife, we were able to plan out a vacation.

The motel we stay in is owned by our friends who give us a family/friend discount. Any discount, in my mind or pocketbook, is a great blessing. We love staying there and enjoy the surroundings.

As we were signing in, the motel lady said to my wife, "There are about ten new thrift stores in town. Would you like me to show you where they are?"

Both of them laughed, then my wife said, "No, because wherever they are, I will find them for sure." The laughter continued.

The only one not laughing at this point was me because I knew the outcome of this sort of thing and it wasn't one I was happy about.

My long history with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has brought me to the conclusion that thrift stores are in her blood. She can smell a thrift store 17 miles away. She knows about a thrift store about a year before it opens.

The strange thing is, all the thrift stores know her by name. As soon as she walked into a thrift store, they smile and greet her enthusiastically. They know that they have a "customer" on the premises.

Not only does she know where these thrift stores are, but she knows exactly what all of them are carrying.

Often when I need something for my office, I will mention it to her, and she will know exactly where to go and how much it will cost. Sometimes one of the thrift stores will have a higher cost on an item, but they can't out bargain the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She gets her price, and that's final.

On occasion, she will take some items to a thrift store, and in her negotiations, she usually gets more than she paid for it. So how she does it, I never ask.

Looking back over our lives, I sometimes muse on what our lives would be like today if she opened up a thrift store many years ago. But, of course, I would have to have a strict watch over my library of about 8,000 books. If she found the buyer, those books would be gone.

Upon thought, it probably is a good thing she never went in that direction.

When our church had a building program, she could go to all the right thrift stores and get a great discount on things needed for the building. The church saved an awful lot of money because of that.

When we were adding on to our parsonage, she could get all kinds of things that we needed in the building process on discount. Again, we saved a lot of money on our remodeling.

As I was settling down in the motel room, my wife was out looking for these new thrift stores. Then, for the next several days, she spent her time looking for any new thrift store she could find.

It was a Friday afternoon when she came back to the motel room smiling and said to me, "Didn't our friend say there were ten new thrift stores in the area? Well, I found 15." And with that, she laughed most heartily.

I should've known it. If anybody can find a thrift store, it is her.

Now there are more thrift stores in the area that will need to be followed up every time we come here.

All I have to do is mention a specific thrift store, and she will begin telling me what's in that thrift store and the things she already bought in that thrift store. So she'll let me know all about it and the people who run it.

Sometimes I wish I had her instinctive gift in finding things. My gift is in losing things. I can lose things right in front of me and not find them for days on end. If I could find what I'm looking for as successful as my wife finds thrift stores, I'd be a happy old gentleman for sure.

She is great to have around. No matter what I lose, she can come up most of the time and find it for me. All I have to do is say, "I can't find my red pen. Have you seen it?"

Before I can clear my throat, she finds it and brings it back to me. It seems that her fascination is with the word "lost," and she could retrieve everything I lost.

I lost my mind once, which was the only thing she could never find. I don't know what I will do if she ever does find my mind.

When I think of the word "find," I think of a wonderful verse in the Bible. "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord" (Proverbs 18:22).

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was the only thing I ever found that has made a big difference in my life. I wish I knew how I was able to find such a treasure. If I knew that, I probably would have a lot of things in my life that I don't have now.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL 34483 Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail james-snyder51@gmail.com. Website is www.jamessnyderministries.com

## MOUNTAIN VIEWS NEWS

**PUBLISHER/ EDITOR**  
Susan Henderson

**PASADENA CITY EDITOR**  
Dean Lee

**PRODUCTION**

**SALES**  
Patricia Colonello  
626-355-2737  
626-818-2698

**WEBMASTER**  
John Avery

**DISTRIBUTION**  
Peter Lamendola

### CONTRIBUTORS

Stuart Tolchin  
Audrey Swanson  
Meghan Malooley  
Mary Lou Caldwell  
Kevin McGuire  
Chris Leclerc  
Bob Eklund  
Howard Hays  
Paul Carpenter  
Kim Clymer-Kelley  
Christopher Nyerges  
Peter Dills  
Rich Johnson  
Lori Ann Harris  
Rev. James Snyder  
Katie Hopkins  
Deanne Davis  
Despina Arouzman  
Jeff Brown  
Marc Garlett  
Keely Toten  
Dan Golden  
Rebecca Wright  
Hail Hamilton  
Joan Schmidt  
LaQuetta Shamblee

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Letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to:

Mountain Views News  
80 W. Sierra Madre Bl.  
#327  
Sierra Madre, Ca.  
91024

Phone: 626-355-2737  
Fax: 626-609-3285  
email:

mtnews@aol.com



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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



## PUT THE LIGHTS ON

### THE RACE QUESTION

No, I do not intend to discuss the ongoing races that are a feature of the Chinese Winter Olympics. From my perspective the international coverage of these events are a continuing refutation of the belief that there exists an actual existing standard of human decency. The world talks of “human rights” but as the “Games” continue in China, the Chinese government engages in the persecution of eleven million Uyghurs living under Chinese control. Already over one million people have been forced into “relocation centers” likened by Amnesty International to concentration camps.

Yes, the world sits idly by as this ongoing Uyghur genocide continues. What is a genocide anyway? The dictionary defines it as “the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group”. To me this definition avoids the basic question of “race”. As the now suspended Whoopi Goldberg attempted to explain it was not a question of “race” -- just one group of White People killing another group of White People. To Whoopi’s surprise many people took offense. The more she attempted to explain the worse it sounded. Finally, her ABC employers issued a statement that she was suspended for two weeks. This suspension was described in World News station WION so that she could “use the suspension time to educate herself about Holocaust”.

Ironically, now outspoken Aussie radio host Kyle Sandland, among others, asserts that “the only reason Whoopi was not fired is because she is a Black woman”. When I attended Junior High School we were told that humankind was divided into three races namely: Caucasoid, Mongoloid, and Negroid. I know now that the development of this theory coincided within a historical situation where most European nations were profiting from the enslavement of people who were conveniently described as an inferior race. During my lifetime the accepted deportation and murdering of people of Jewish heritage was defended and exalted in the name of racial purification—a term originating in the United States within eugenics movement of the prior century.

Last week referring to the Whoopi controversy I described the first words of the first page of the graphic novel “Maus” created by Art Spiegelman, the son of a holocaust survivor which begins with the following quote:

“The Jews are undoubtedly a race, but they are not human” Adolf Hitler.

The Germans in the book are all pictured as cats and the Jews are all pictured as mice. Not only do the cats murder the mice but also the mice manage to do harm to one another. I think that is one of the saddest aspects of the book. Cats and Mice are not that different from one another. This book won the Pulitzer Prize in 1992 but, believe it or not, you might have trouble finding the book today. I read last week that it is being pulled off the shelves of school libraries because there is concern that this might make children uncomfortable. Has “comfort” now become the goal of teaching?

The teaching of “race” ought not to be comfortable. Consider the controversy regarding critical race theory, which I believe is an attempt to present, at accurate description of history heretofore absent from most school curricula. Contrary to what Whoopi and Adolph believed and contrary to what I remember being taught, there is now virtual scientific agreement that race should no longer be considered a valid biologic classification. After much study it has been concluded that Race is simply a product of the Nation’s social and political history—it is a social construct. In other words, it’s all make-believe. Something that has been made up to justify behavior and attitudes concurrent with the wishes of the powers-that-be. Concepts created and utilized to maintain and increase power and control. Every single National Football League owner is white despite the fact that seventy percent of the players are of African heritage. Most tellingly there is only one African-American coach. The closed clubs of white privileged folk do not wish to lose financial control and entitled privilege. To better understand view the now available “The Gilded Age”.

But, as always. I digress! Returning to my original concerns the Winter Olympics proceed as planned because there is money to be made. Forget all the talk about inalienable human rights; governments do not act until the powers-that-be believe it is in their best interest. This, I am sad to say, seems to be a universal truism just as Whoopi Goldberg asserted. What exists are continuing injustices and conflicts—sadly inevitable human problems now mischaracterized as simply problems related to Race. Eventually, I hope, the world’s population will recognize that what is being threatened is our own survival. I just hope that this realization trumps (or detumps) the short-term financial and privileged interests of the world’s rulers. It is a race to the finish line! What finishes and at what line is up to all of us. KEEP THE LIGHTS ON!

## DICK POLMAN

### BIG DEAL, TRUMP BROKE ANOTHER LAW



At this point in our sick national saga, is there any law that Trump hasn’t broken?

A federal statute on the books – Title 18, Section 2071 of the U.S. Code – spells out the provisions of the Presidential Records Act of 1978. All materials generated by a president, in the furtherance of his (or her) official duties, automatically belong to the American people. Which means that all such materials – documents, memos, gifts, letters, whatever – must be transferred to the National Archives upon that president’s departure from office.

The law also warns that anyone found guilty of “willfully and unlawfully” concealing, removing, mutilating, obliterating, or destroying, or attempting to do any such action, can be fined and imprisoned for up to three years.

As David Ferriero, the official Archivist of the United States, stated this week, “The Presidential Records Act is critical to our democracy, in which the government is held accountable by the people. Whether through the creation of adequate and proper documentation, sound records management practices, the preservation of records, or the timely transfer of them to the National Archives at the end of an administration, there should be no question as to need for both diligence and vigilance. Records matter.”

Why, pray tell, did Ferriero feel compelled to issue such a statement? Only because the Visigoth of Mar a Lago had been caught, yet again, pillaging the spirit of democracy. Because, as we’ve now learned, it took the National Archives a full year (from January 2021 to January 2022) to retrieve 15 boxes of our stuff – including potential security-sensitive material – that Trump stole from the White House while being shoved out the door by a record-high 81 million voters.

Granted, other presidents have done bad things. Bill and Hillary took some gifts and furnishings that belonged to the White House that they were compelled to return. But the sheer scale of Trump’s pilferage has reportedly dwarfed all previous episodes.

Of course, considering everything else Trump has done and continues to do, stealing 15 boxes in breach of federal law is roughly the equivalent of jaywalking. This grifter hid his tax returns and his medical records, so why should we care that he spent a full year hiding government documents?

That’s how far he has lowered the bar – he gets away with everything (so far) because nobody expects him to do any better. But just imagine how the right-wing infatuation complex would’ve reacted if Barack Obama had stolen 15 boxes and secreted them in his manse on Martha’s Vineyard. Tucker Carlson’s head would’ve detonated with the power of a hundred suns.

We average citizens know full well that ignorance of the law, or blithe indifference to the law, is no defense. If a cop stops us for going 60 in a 45-mph zone, he’s not impressed if we claim that we didn’t see the speed signs. He’d be doubly unimpressed if we were to admit that we did see the signs, but paid them no mind.

But in Trump’s case, there’s a different metric. It boils down to this: Give him a pass, because he doesn’t know any better.

This week, Trump advisers told the press that, with respect to those 15 stolen boxes, Dear Leader had no “nefarious intent,” no “criminal intent.” They said that he simply didn’t make any distinction between how he operated in the public sector and how he had always operated in the private sector.

As one ex-Trump official reportedly insisted: “I don’t think he did this out of malicious intent to avoid complying with the Presidential Records Act. As long as he’s been in business, he’s been very transactional and it was probably his longtime practice and I don’t think his habits changed when he got to the White House.”

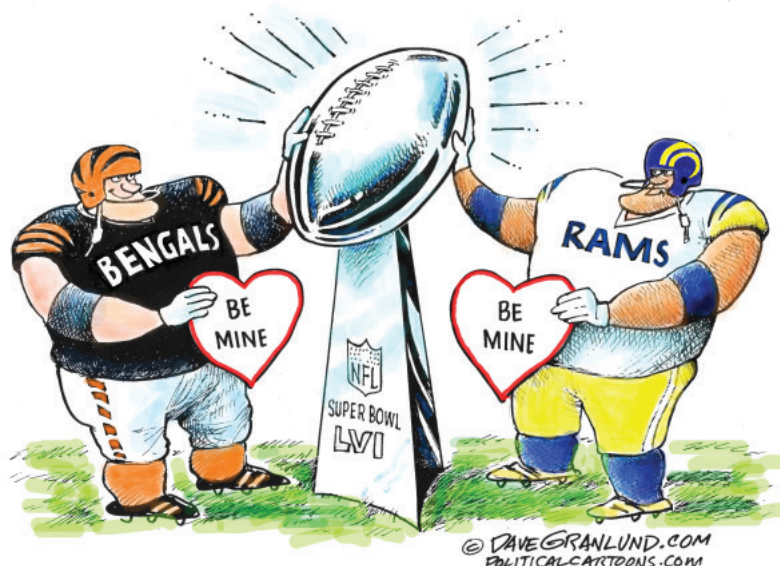
Oh.

Did no staffer enlighten him that working as president is different from running a casino? Was he indeed briefed about the Presidential Record Act, but shrugged it off? Is that why some of the material turned over to the National Archives arrived there in torn-up pieces?

We can certainly ask such questions, but don’t hold your breath waiting for answers.

One final question:

*Are there more boxes secreted somewhere at Mar a Lago?*



STYLING: SAK



## RICH JOHNSON NOW THAT'S RICH



### REALLY IMPORTANT STUFF

Recently I was accused of not writing about important stuff. Actually I took that as a compliment. Everyone else writes about important stuff so I think there is a niche for less than important stuff. There, was that important? Actually I will regale you with great truths learned at various stages in life. Important? You decide.

Great truths little children have learned:

When your mom is mad, don't let her brush your hair.  
You can't trust your dog to watch your food.  
Never hold a dust-buster and a cat at the same time.  
You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.

Great truths adults have learned:

Raising teens is like nailing jelly to a tree.  
Wrinkles don't hurt.  
Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, but a few nuts.  
Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.  
You learn to choose your cereal for the fiber and not the toy.

Great truths senior citizens have learned:

Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.  
You now know all the answers but nobody asks you the questions.  
Time is a great healer, but a lousy beautician.

San Gabriel Valley Intelligence Test

What major world war followed World War I?  
What month has 28 days in it?  
What animal was Chief Sitting Bull named after?  
In the 1830s, the Reverend Sylvester Graham invented what kind of cracker?  
Who was the host of the “Ed Sullivan Show?”  
What major border lies between the United States and Canada?  
The last names of the two inventors of M&M’s began with what letters?  
What color is the White House?  
What president was the city Washington D.C. named after?

Grandpa’s Christmas Fruitcake Recipe (This recipe is to be recited out loud at dinner parties. Read it exactly as it is written)

You’ll need the following: a cup of water, a cup of sugar, four large brown eggs, two cups of dried fruit, a teaspoon of salt, a cup of brown sugar, lemon juice, nuts, and a bottle of whiskey.

Sample the whiskey to check for quality. Take a large bowl. Check the whiskey again. To be sure it’s the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat. Turn on the electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon of sugar and beat again.

Make sure the whiskey is still okay. Cry another tup. Turn off the mixer. Beat two leggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Mix on the tuner. If the fired fruit gets stuck in the beaterers, pry it loose with a drowscriver.

Sample the whiskey to check for tonsisticity. Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something. Who cares? Check the whiskey. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one table. Spoon. Of sugar or something. Whatever you can find.

Grease the oven. Turn the cake tin to 350 degrees. Don’t forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out the window. Check the whiskey again and go to bed.



## OMG.....AND NOBODY SPILLED A BEAN!



Susan Henderson - Publisher/Editor

In the midst of all that is going on around us, sometimes it is necessary to take a break and share something from the lighter side of life. Recently, yours truly celebrated a milestone birthday. While I am not going to disclose what milestone, I'll simply tell you this.....all of my children are members of AARP. Got it?!

Well, anyway, those same children led by my sons Mr. Fred as he is known to many Sierra Madre parents and children, and my oldest son Paul, pulled off the undercover operation of the cover! They were aided and abetted by my daughter

in law Doreen and my partner. The mission: To surprise me on my birthday.

Anyone who knows me well realizes how difficult a task it is to really 'surprise' me. It's never been done in my entire life. My parents couldn't even surprise me when I was a child because I always picked up on coded conversations or locked closets that had never been locked before or the slightest changes in their regular routine. There has always been at least a hint that something was going on, but not this time. Some might say I have a heightened level of curiosity, others that I am just plain nosey and/or controlling. Nevertheless, they did it this time and it turned out to be the best birthday ever!

So, for my birthday, which was last Friday, my partner took the day off and insisted we play golf. Playing golf is never a problem for me, but playing on a Friday, the day this newspaper goes to press, is something I haven't done for more than 16 years. But....this was a big birthday so, ok. She continued to remind me all week to get as much editing as possible done on Thursday and eventually let me know that Fred would be playing golf with us as well. Ok. Nothing unusual about that. On Thursday, she shared that some of our golfing friends would also be playing with us to celebrate my birthday. Ok. Nothing unusual about that. They almost all play on Friday anyway. Then Friday morning on the way to the golf course, she mentions that we will have dinner afterwards. Ok, that isn't unusual either. Then she says, "By the way Paul will be playing with us.". Now that was front page news. Paul, my oldest son, is no fan of golf, he doesn't believe it's even a sport. He is Mr. Black Belt, Mr. Taekwondo, etc. In 30 years he has never, ever set foot on a golf course. So when I heard this I thought she was kidding and but sure enough, there he was at the course. He actually rode in the cart with me and made an effort to putt a few times. I was overjoyed as when he said, "Ok, I confess, this game is harder than it looks".



So as far as my Birthday went, I was happy to have my sons playing with me and going to dinner with my family and friends afterwards. But that wasn't even the icing on the cake!

After golf we went to a great restaurant near the course in Long Beach. (A great place, wonderful outdoor dining venue - Shenandoah at the Arbor. As we escorted to our reservation table, I noticed it was set for far more people than in my immediate family, but some of my golfing friends and their wives trickled in. And shortly after I was seated, while awaiting the arrival of Doreen and my granddaughters I noticed two very tall people, 6'2" and 6'7" woman and man respectively, walking in. And then I realized that it was my Sister and Brother In Law from Georgia that I haven't seen since late 2019! At that point, I just lost it. All I could say was "OMG", "OMG", as I almost tripped trying to get to them and hug them!



Turns out that my sister and brother in law were 'smuggled' into LA County, actually 'smuggled' in Sierra Madre two days before and were 'hidden' from me. The scheme was elaborate. Late Thursday I had to come to Sierra Madre and make a few stops by the office and my partner volunteered to drive me. Little did I know or pay attention that she didn't take her usual route, she wanted to make certain I didn't run into the stowaways! I've also learned that when Paul called me the day before, his request that I FaceTime the call wasn't about me seeing his cat, it was so he could confirm that I wasn't in Sierra Madre so they could take their Aunt and Uncle to The Only Place In Town. By FaceTiming the call, he could see that I was in my home office and not in Sierra Madre. And the number of other little things that they did made their plan come off flawlessly. And even my sister pitched in. The picture above was taken on the course and I texted it to my sis proud to have the 'boys' playing golf with me. She responded just as though she was in Georgia, like I thought she was! The hardest thing for me during this Pandemic hasn't been business challenges, or the cancelled holiday plans, it was not being able to see my Big Sister other than on Zoom. My big sister is my rock and my kids know that. Actually being able to hug my favorite couple, (they've been married 63 years), was absolutely the best Birthday present ever.

What a day! What a Wonderful day! So now my family has given me a new nickname, OMG! It was truly amazing and I am truly grateful and amazed. Amazed? Yes, with all of this planning and execution, no one, including my granddaughters, spilled a single bean! Nope, I never knew a thing.

Thank you family. You're absolutely the best!

*P.S. - Kudos to Delight Pastry in Pasadena. The constructed the most beautiful, decadent birthday cake in the shape of an "S". Too yummy for words! delightpastryca.com*

## All Things

By Jeff Brown

This is a dark time in a dark year. It began horribly, with a violent assault on the Capital intended to stop the peaceful transfer of power-a first for our nation.

The climate showed us where we're headed, as biblical droughts baked the west and sucked reservoirs dry, 115-degree heatwaves paralyzed Portland and Seattle, and a polar cold snap froze Texas solid.

Forests in the western U.S. and the world exploded into flames. Monsterous tornados almost never seen in December erased communities across Kentucky and the Midwest.

The pandemic we thought we'd beaten in the spring roared back twice, thru Greek letter, mutation-disguised variants that have filled hospitals and morgues with the voluntarily unvaccinated.

In the season of renewal and of hope, it takes real effort to find optimism about the future in our sore, beleaguered hearts. We can

reasonably hope the pandemic will wane this year at last, after holding humanity hostage for more than 2 years. But there is no reason the expect an end to another viral epidemic of misinformation and tribal hatred that endangers our democracy.

American's no longer share common facts, information, or trusted sources and experts; a virtual secession has already occurred. Extremists are pushing the parties further apart, and on the Right, a radical, anti-democracy movement is gaining momentum.

Three retired U.S. generals warned this week that a disputed presidential election in 2024 could cause "a total breakdown of the chain of command along partisan lines"-and actual civil war. If that sounds nuts, remember that 2 years ago, an insurrection and a pandemic were just as unimaginable.

In the face of so many troubles and sorrows, what do we do? For perspective, I often think back to what my parent's generation faced, and how dark it must have felt as 1941 gave way to 1942. Then, as now, surrender was not an option. Curse the darkness. Fight. Persist. The light is coming eventually.

By William Falk Editor-in-Chief "the Week"

## WHERE ARE THE SIDEWALKS?

The looming specter of the proposed Meadows Housing Development of 42 homes on land the Mater Delorosa purchased in the early 1920's has found me re-thinking several long-held concerns regarding city management and maintenance. The lack of sidewalks above Grandview and on the north side of West Grandview is becoming one of my main concerns. Since I moved I to Sierra Madre in 2008, I was struck by how it felt that the city had forgotten to put in sidewalks in the upper northwest quadrant of town. Sidewalks have always made pedestrians feel safer while walking on streets whether it was with their dogs, taking an early morning walk, walking from neighbor to neighbor, or simply walking their children to and from school. In many cases the residents have made their own sidewalks in the dirt, because the city has not had an active program to put sidewalks in for its residents. However, I took a hard look at North Lima a few months ago and realized the residents have adjusted to this situation by using the street as their sidewalk. Because the elevation of North Lima is quite pronounced above Grandview, safety becomes another concern as the mere weight of the cars allows them to speed up until the first stop sign at Grandview. After doing further research the city actually had a master plan for installing sidewalks and maintaining sidewalks once. This is part of what I found.

"One Goal of the Sidewalk Master Plan" is listed below:

*"The Sierra Madre Sidewalk Master Plan is intended to be a broad planning document that can be referenced when sidewalk considerations confront the Public Works Department. Resources and funding will most likely prevent the city from accomplishing all recommendations of this plan immediately. The primary goal of this plan is continuous improvements towards a safe, accessible, useful, aesthetically pleasing and sustainable system of walkways throughout the city."*

Also recognized in the continuation of the Master Sidewalk Plan was:


*Sidewalks are the pedestrian arteries of the city and the safety of those pedestrians using the sidewalks is a significant concern to the community. As is the case with any other segment of city-owned infrastructure, the city is generally considered to be responsible for the safety of persons using the sidewalks. Further exploration of this 42 page Master Sidewalk Plan revealed:*

*A sidewalk inspection program paired with a plan for maintenance and installation provides economic benefits to the city by preventing claims and minimizing the expense of litigation. Aside from the prevention of accidents, inspection programs and maintenance/installation plans may allow cities to take advantage of certain governmental immunities that are not otherwise available to those entities without such programs. "*

Clearly the city recognizes the need and the safety issues sidewalks address, but the question is the why has there been no aggressive sidewalk program to have them installed throughout this area? My home and my next-door neighbor's home were built in 1922. Both homes are 100 years old and neither have sidewalks. Why has the city neglected this area for so long? In fact, with the exception of one home whose owner installed their own sidewalk as part of a total landscape remodel for installing drought tolerant plants a few years ago, both sides of North Lima up to Carter have very few sidewalks. If the city's plan was to have residents put in their own sidewalks when the property was involved with a major renovation, or when the homes were bought and sold that program has not occurred in Sierra Madre. It is rather a haphazard arrangement when someone wants a sidewalk installed they contact the city and pay for it themselves. However if had someone from the city told me when I moved into Sierra Madre I needed to put in a sidewalk in front of my home it would have been installed years ago. Instead I also use the street as a sidewalk because no sidewalks have ever been installed above Grandview. The sad comment is that if there has been a program in place no one has ever heard about it and I have lived here for 15 years and subscribe to the local paper. Why is that?

The thought of additional traffic or approximately 800 cars a day generated from 42 homes that MIGHT BE BUILT IF THIS HOUSING PROJECT ON THE MONASTERY LAND GOES FORWARD further concerns me. The current infrastructure of the streets that will be impacted by this development are woefully not ready to accept extra traffic. Can you imagine the law suit generated from one child walking in the street to school being hit by a car speeding down Lima, because the child had to walk in the street to get to school! Think about it. This is a real "wake-up call" for the city. Whether the Housing Development is accepted or not, for safety reasons sidewalks should be installed throughout the city. Better be safe and start installing sidewalks in an aggressive fashion so something like this does not have a chance to occur.

Nancy Beckham, Sierra Madre



# Thank You!


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## Calling all High School Student Musicians

The Sierra Madre Rotary Club is seeking local high school students to participate in the

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