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## AREA MARKET REPORT APRIL-JUNE 2022 SIERRA MADRE

### SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

SFR AVERAGES	BR	BA	SF	LOT
April-June 2022	4	3	2,499	10,896
April-June 2021	3	2	1,832	9,532

LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	PRICE SF
\$1,676,547	\$1,832,942	\$764
\$1,194,954	\$1,271,259	\$724

### CONDOMINIUMS

SFR AVERAGES	BR	BA	SF
April-June 2022	3	3	1,736

LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	PRICE SF
\$942,500	\$989,500	\$574

The data indicates now is the time to sell....reach out to any of us to assist you in that process. If your home is priced right, we have consistently been able to get well over asking for our very happy sellers.



We continue to be so appreciative of all our clients whom we have been able to support. Despite everything, we are NEVER too busy to support you. Feel free to reach out to any of us with questions about the market and/or if you are interested in moving forward with selling or buying a home.

**Jan Greteman 626.975.4033**  
lic #01943630

**Judy Webb-Martin 626.688.2273**  
lic #00541631

**Katie Orth 626.688.0418**  
lic #00942500



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source: CoreLogic, Freddie Mac, Bankrate

## SIERRA MADRE NEWS BRIEFS BALLOT MEASURE NAMED MEASURE HR

The ballot measure that will appear on the November ballot opposing the "Meadows at Bailey Canyon" project was officially named late Friday. Based on information received at press time, voters will be casting their votes to either approve or reject Measure HR (Hillside Residential). In a related matter, the Sierra Madre City Council will meet on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 to formally develop their ballot statement opposing the measure.

## U.S. MARSHALS PERFORM A SEX OFFENDER COMPLIANCE CHECK ON E. MIRAMONTE

On Friday morning, several members of the Los Angeles U.S. Marshal Service conducted a compliance check at a home on E. Miramonte where a registered sex offender resides. Deputy Olvera of the USMS in Los Angeles confirmed the activity Friday afternoon.

Because of the proximity of the home to a school, school authorities were alerted the day before that the activity would take place and that the officers would be armed.

A check of Megan's Law website ([www.meganslaw.ca.gov](http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov)) for offenders in the area does reveal that Awest resides on that street. According to the site, Awest was convicted of "Lewd or lascivious acts with a child under 14 years of age" in 2006 and released from prison in 2014. Upon his release he was required to register with SMPD and listed on Megan's Law list.

The outcome of the USMS activity was not available at press time. (Related story: <http://mtnviewsnews.com/v08/htm/n34/index.htm>)

## PROGRESS AT THE POST OFFICE



As you may have noticed, the landscaping of the Sierra Madre Post Office has taken some giant steps forward and we are ready to announce more.

FormLA, the landscape architecture firm that specializes in drought tolerant native landscaping has been busy with the design and they are ready to reveal it. On Tuesday, August 30 at 6pm there will be a Zoom presentation and everyone is invited. The landscape architecture team of Cassy Aoyagi, Eric Crow and Isara Ongwiseth will do a presentation of the final design and are looking for the public's feedback. If you want to be part of the big reveal, go to: [www.formlainc.com](http://www.formlainc.com) to register. In preparation for the final design, you may have noticed some additions at the Post Office. One of our intrepid volunteers designed, built and installed a new bench for the front that also covers the new irrigation valves and matches the mid-century design and colors of the building.

We also installed the foundation for the non-flammable walkway that is part of the landscape design. Other ongoing preparation work includes the digging of the new swale, the addition of new topsoil and the digging for the new irrigation system. The plants can't go in until all the hardscape has been finished.

The project has also received a generous donation from Rainbird that will cover all the irrigation needs. Fun Fact: The founder of Rainbird lived in Sierra Madre! We are planning a public demonstration on how to install a Rainbird drip irrigation system for native plants so please keep an eye out for the announcement.

Our future public demonstrations will cover how to create a swale to capture rain water and how to plant native plants. We expect those presentations to take place in October and November.

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 the PayPal QR Code below:



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!

## PHASE I OF "THE MEADOWS" PROJECT APPROVED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION

*It's off to City Council for a final vote*

By Kevin McGuire

Well, the dog days of summer are winding down, the kids are back in school, and The Planning Commission has given a passing grade to The Meadows at Bailey Canyon Project, with some minor adjustments agreed upon by the developers.

During what would be continued public hearing number six on Thursday, August 18, the Commission was presented with these familiar options:

- Certify the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; and
- Approve the Specific Plan; and
- Approve amendments to the General Plan and Land Use Map and Zoning Code and Zoning Map to change the project site from Institutional to Single-Family Residential Specific Plan Overlay; and
- Approve the Lot Line Adjustment; and
- Approve the Development Agreement.

At the August 4th meeting, The Planning Commission hit the developers with requested revisions to the Specific Plan, Development Agreement, design guidelines, and park design. Some of the revision requests to the Specific Plan included clarifications on maximum height, identifying the amount of 2-story houses proposed, allowance for appeal, mandatory recommendation, and notice requirement for the Final Park Design.

Revisions requested for the Development Agreement include an amendment to read those offsite improvements commence before the issuance of the first building permit, and construction should be complete before the 11th building permit. This is regarding Carter Ave.

Jonathan Frankel of New Urban West, Inc., presented red-lined revisions to the Commission at the meeting before a packed room Thursday night. Frankel did offer the following adjustments.

- The improvements to Carter Ave. would comply with requirements and be completed "well" before the new public park is completed.
- They have adopted a way to calculate the floor area except for small entryways and foyers connected to a staircase that do not exceed 180-square feet.

3. Fourteen units will comply with the angle plane height requirements in the Municipal Code.

4. Confirmed that the maximum retention wall height will be six feet, except for privacy walls between existing Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center Gardens and The Meadows, for which developers request eight-foot walls. The walls will be fully screened with landscape.

5. The final park approval will be subject to a public design process with Community Services review and approval, and a public notice will be mailed to those homeowners in adjacent properties. Appeals to City Council and Community Services Commission are permitted.

6. Clarified that minor modifications may be approved by the City Manager upon the written recommendation from the Director of Planning and Community Preservation. Notice of applications for minor modifications will be provided to the Planning Commission and City Council. Developers also agreed to lower allowable deviations in height from 20% to 10%, making the maximum height 27.5 feet.

7. The maximum floor area may not be exceeded unless a variance is granted in accordance with existing code requirements. Future homeowners will be subject to the regulations included in the Specific Plan.

The public had a chance to comment on this subject once again. Comments included some of the same concerns over fires, water usage, and drought situations to impact the surrounding communities and lack of outreach. A few members of Mater Dolorosa pushed for final approval and commented negatively about how long this process has taken.

But, the final result after meeting 6 is the approval of Resolution 22-10 certifying the Environmental Impact Report, Resolution 22-11, approving the General Plan, Land Use Plan Amendment, approval of the Zoning Map, Lot Line Adjustment, approval of the Specific Plan (with some minor revisions) and acceptance of the Development Agreement (also with some final edits). The developers have already agreed upon the requested revisions.

Next stop City Council. Stay tuned for announcements when City Council will vote on The Meadows Project. Phase Two of the Project, which includes the Tentative Tract Map and Design Review Permit, is subject to a Five-Hearing Rule. New Urban West has 24 months to complete the application for these two entitlements.

## RESERVE COMMANDER MITCHELL THOMAS RECEIVES THE CALIFORNIA RESERVE PEACE OFFICER ASSOCIATION 2022 DISTINGUISH SERVICE AWARD



Last week the California Reserve Peace Officer Association awarded Reserve Commander Mitchell Thomas the 2022 Distinguish Service Award for his 38 years of service to the City of Sierra Madre and the Police Department. Reserve Commander Thomas has been a substantial department member, working on various assignments on a volunteer basis. Well done, sir, and thank you for your committed and selfless service to the City of Sierra Madre. Pictured above r to l: Reserve Unit Coordinator, Sgt. Charles Kamchamnan, Commander Mitchell, Officer Kenneth Berry, SMPD Acting Chief Henry Amos.

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**FRIENDS**  
of the Sierra Madre  
**Library**

## 50th Annual Friends of the Sierra Madre Library Wine and Cuisine Tasting Benefit

### POSTPONED

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library regret to announce the postponement of the 50th Annual Friends of Sierra Madre Library Wine and Cuisine Tasting Benefit scheduled for September 23, 2022. All tickets purchased on eventbrite.com have been refunded. Those who purchased tickets at the library will be contacted by a committee member to arrange for return or voiding of payments.

The Planning Committee felt encouraged that the pandemic had reached a point where an in-person event could be planned! However, in the wake of the pandemic, we learned that labor shortages, economic instability and caution made execution of the event impossible. With this said, the Friends Board of Directors voted to postpone the benefit.

We ask readers to support the Sierra Madre Library by joining the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library or becoming a Partner of the library. We also encourage each of you to support our local restaurants and other venues as the recovery continues.

Julie Bencosme, 2022 – 2023 President of Friends of Sierra Madre Library, extends special thanks to Susan Henderson at Mt Views News; Pete Siberell at Santa Anita Racetrack; all the restaurants that supported the wine tasting, including Nano's Café, Poppy Cake, Raffi's, Matt Denny's, and Lucky Baldwin; those businesses that contributed to the Silent Auction were Baldwin Jewelers, The Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens, Bottle Shop, Amperage Electric, Bill Traxler Pool Service, The Buccaneer, Creative Arts Group, Four Seasons Tea Room, Islands Fine Burgers, Lucky Baldwin's, Nano's Café, Only Place in Town Restaurant, and Sierra Madre Playhouse. Special thanks are also extended to Arcadia Party Rentals, Sir Speedy of Monrovia, and B & H Signs for their continued support of our events.

Margaret Quigley and The Buccaneer both offered to serve as sponsors for the wine tasting, which was appreciated. And last but not least special thanks to the Friends of Sierra Madre Library Board of Directors for making this tough decision.

Stay on the lookout for this well-loved event's return in the future!

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library helps support the programs for children and adults at Sierra Madre Library throughout the year. For more information about becoming a member or Partner of the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library visit our website at [www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org](http://www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org).



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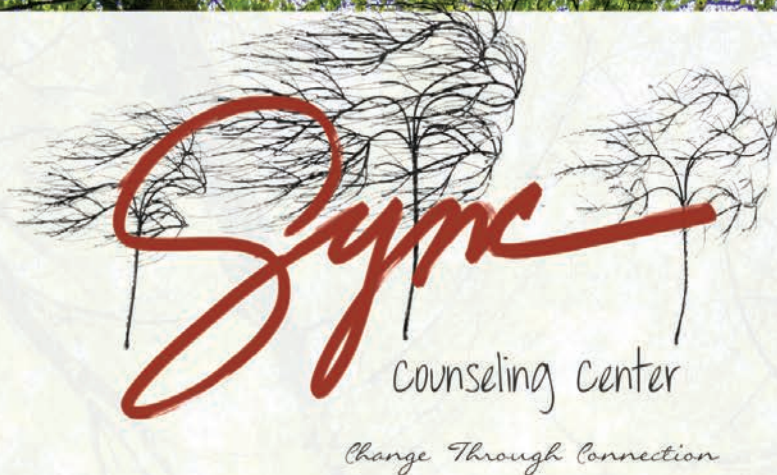
## Why Join Rotary?

- #10 The average age of club members is 31 years lower than U.S. Senate and we actually like each other.
  - #9 There are fascinating, thought-provoking guest speakers at club meetings.
  - #8 We consistently support local schools, both financially and through club participation in their programs.
  - #7 We are engaged in international projects such as Shelter Box aid to Ukraine and potable water projects abroad.
  - #6 We love a parade and participate in our town's Fourth of July Celebration.
  - #5 Through Rotary International, we support programs to foster peace and cooperation through better understanding.
  - #4 We love to get our hands dirty maintaining Goldberg Park and the Post office landscape project.
  - #3 Can you say, "delicious tri-tip sandwiches and Sierra Madre Rotary Club Rub"?
  - #2 We believe in our youth and sponsor music and leadership opportunities for the next generation.
- And the #1 Reason:  
*Service Above Self Is Its Own, Best Reward!*

**Rotary**  Club of Sierra Madre  
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MORE MISINFORMATION

Much misinformation continues to swirl around the Meadows Project. It is easier to leap to a conclusion without doing diligent research into the City’s Municipal Codes and ordinances. It is so

much easier to form an opinion and then promote it as fact. All this talk about religious discrimination is troubling. Sierra Madre is a community of churches with worshipers of every denomination regularly attending the church of their choice. It seems strange that knowing this, our elected officials would support any provision of our local laws that would discriminate, restrict or discourage any of us from expressing our religious beliefs. Yet, supporters of the Meadows Project argue that rezoning the Mater Dolorosa property to Residential Hillside (R-H) does just that. Let’s dig a little deeper and do some research into our municipal codes. SMMC Section 17.52.070 C (1) of the Hillside Management Zone (Chapter 17.52) states as follows : “Uses in the R-H Zone requiring a Hillside Development Permit. The following uses of land shall be allowed subject to the granting of a hillside development permit in compliance with this chapter: 1) Any primary or accessory use permitted in the R-1 one family residential zone (as set forth in Section 17.60.030”) . This section states: “The following uses....shall be permitted in the zones as hereinafter set forth in the following.” A. “Conditional uses-- All zones except the Open Space and Resource Conservation Zone include Churches, temples and other places of worship.” To clarify, the Initiative places the Monastery property in an R-H Zone. A clear reading of this section is that “churches, temples and other places of worship are permitted in an R-H zone. “Other places of worship” is a purposefully all-encompassing term that broadly includes a “retreat center “ and “religious depictions”. To interpret this otherwise is suspect. Under the Initiative, the Passionists would be allowed to construct religious -based structures on their property upon submission of a hillside development permit, which the City would have no basis to deny. The conclusion that any section of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code would prohibit the right of a religious organization to exercise it’s religious freedoms in contradiction of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, which has as one of its purposes to ensure religious uses in nearly all zoning districts, makes no sense. Those seeking to further divide us by arguing religious persecution are way off base and factually incorrect. Those who wrongly say the Initiative will not allow for the expansion of the Retreat Center kitchen are grasping at straws. In reality, the Initiative does not affect the ability of the Passionists to expand any existing facility,i.e. the Retreat Center, or construct a new one under their operation as a place of worship and arguing otherwise is misleading. With so much information swirling around this complex, ever-changing project, readers are urged to go beyond the glib statements of those seeking to destroy the small town ambiance of our community, research the facts for yourself and discover the truth.



- Talking it Out -  
Radio Communication Fundamentals

Some of you may have never used a portable 2-way radio before. Others of you may have learned sloppy radio procedures which could stand gentle correction. Whether you are “mike shy” or have simply gotten rusty in radio operating procedures and need a refresher in basics, this class is for you!

As always, the public is welcome to attend!

Sierra Madre CERT General Meeting  
Thursday, August 28th 7:00 PM  
Hart Park House - Memorial Park  
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.



THE SIERRA MADRE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
EMS DIVISION PRESENTS,

# SIDEWALK CPR

## FREE COMMUNITY CLASS

SUNDAY, SEPT 18TH, 1PM  
STATION 41, SIERRA MADRE

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SIERRA MADRE  
Neighbors for Fairness

TOO MUCH RHETORIC

There was so much rhetoric about the Meadows project in last week’s paper that it is hard to know where to start. This week we will quickly respond to the key points.

Preserve Sierra Madre  
Complaint: The developer would add a new gate to Bailey Canyon: The Passionists already own their own gate to Bailey Canyon. The city can control two gates. Since when is making a park more accessible to the public during open hours a bad thing?

Stop Housing Project  
Complaint: SMNFF articles are unsigned: Our Steering Committee publishes all content and we are listed at: [sierramadreneighborsforfairness.org/committee](#). What we can’t find is a single name listed on the Stop Housing Project website, not even in the posted text of their initiative where it conveniently cuts off at the proponents’ signature pages.

Complaint: Entirely unsubstantiated suppositions were made that could be considered libelous: Vague accusations are standard from the proponents of the initiative. We invite them to provide any facts we got wrong.

Complaint: That SMNFF said an initiative proponent worked for a developer of luxury homes: According to the Linked-In information at the time it showed that a proponent was a senior vice president for a large developer. It now shows they worked there while signatures were collected and through June 2022. It is relevant to us that this was not disclosed. It certainly was a Fair question to ask when the initiative allows sixty-eight 6,500 square foot homes.

Compliant: That we implied that a Resort Developer must have its eyes on the 17 acres of monastery property: Actually, it was the 35 buildable acres that the initiative rezones. We don’t know what the proponent’s intent was, that is why this information needs to be disclosed. All three proponents were knowledgeable about both legal matters and real estate... yet somehow failed to tell anyone that sixty-eight 6,500 square foot homes could

be built after their initiative passes. Why do they support mansions in Sierra Madre and oppose a public park? Either they know what they are doing or they don’t know what they are doing. We will let the readers decide.

Complaint: That we suggested that the developer of luxury homes must be funding the initiative: We never said that, but it is a Fair question.

Claim: 229 donations on STOP’s GoFundMe page came from ordinary citizens: Of the currently 233 donations, only 91 unique donors are listed, less than 1% of the city’s population. 75 donations are listed as Anonymous totaling over half the donations (\$22,083). There are two anonymous \$5000 donations; that seems like a lot for an “ordinary citizen” to give. Who donated these large sums?

Claim: Donations paid for STOP’s attorney whose initiative will allow the CITIZENS to decide what is right for Sierra Madre: Before they donated did you tell them that sixty-eight 6,500 square foot mansions could be built after your initiative passes and that the city can’t stop them? What else are you hiding?

Complaint: New Urban West has spent many times more than raised by STOP’s Go Fund Me: SMNFF has disclosed from the beginning that we are working with the developer to protect the rights of the Passionists, and now to prevent sixty-eight mansions from possibly being built in the city. See? This is what disclosure looks like. We have nothing to hide.

Complaint: It is a ridiculous allegation that "68 large houses [could be built] under the initiative": The City Attorney’s 9212 report states under A COMPARISON OF THE INITIATIVE AND THE MEADOWS PROJECT a. 6. “35 Acres State Permitted Maximum Density: 68 units, Maximum Gross Floor Area: 6.500 sq. ft./ unit.” Why is STOP pushing so hard to stop a public park and 40 acres placed in conservancy while allowing mansions in Sierra Madre? The citizens deserve answers.

News | Sierra Madre Neighbors for Fairness  
[news@sierramadreneighborsforfairness.org](#)  
[SierraMadreNeighborsforFairness.org](#)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Oh my, libel and mud-slinging all in one paragraph. This accusation is in a recent MVN column. Rare coming from the columnist who has for months accused our City Council, the City Attorney, and City workers for being on the take, of the developer for underhanded tactics, and some of the public for being “bought” for coming out against the initiative. There was even an insinuation in front of a City Council meeting that the new fire truck purchased by the City was a bribe to the City to make sure the project was approved. One phone call to the City would have cleared that accusation up in a hurry. And, oh, by the way, the initiative still allows all 34 acres of the Mater Dolorosa property to be changed to hillside residential, not just 17 acres and 8 homes claimed by the framers of the initiative on every occasion imaginable.

- Here are some facts:
- The Initiative takes away the rights of one property owner who has legally filed to the City for a change in property use.
  - The Initiative uses the strictest wording to change what it called “only 17 acres” by some, but in actuality all of the 34 acres of buildable property. This has created a Religious Rights Violation

including some of the use and rights of the Mater Dolorosa community.

- It won’t stop houses to be built, and actually creates mansions. It creates the possibility of 6500 square foot houses – far larger than planned by the Passionists.
- It won’t preserve the meadow, the wildlife, water or trees
- It creates legal issues for the City in terms of Religious Rights Violations.
- It ties the hands of the City to be able to consider any change in zoning should the initiative be passed.

An in-depth analysis of these six issues will be coming in the next few weeks leading up to the election. In the meantime, do some homework yourself. Read the Initiative to see the actual wording of this legal document and you’ll decide for yourself to vote NO on this destructive ballot measure.  
Pat Alcorn

Dear Editor:

Robert Gjerde opened his letter in last week’s paper with a startling observation – that we’re “now six months into the discussion on the initiative to rezone the monastery property to the Hillside Residential zone.” But in all this time, I still haven’t heard a cogent argument as to why the developer is investing so much time, effort and money to avoid having to proceed under our Hillside Management restrictions.

Given arguments presented, you’d think a major concern of the developer and their investors is protection of religious exercise by the Passionists. They may very well be devout churchgoers. But to suggest motivation is anything other than maximizing return on investment, or that concern over the Passionists’ free exercise of religion plays any part in this – one would have to assume developer New Urban West cares.

And then the other argument – they object to restrictions that would be imposed under our Hillside Management zoning because they wouldn’t be restrictive enough. (“allows for 6,500 sq ft homes”) I’ve yet to encounter a developer who objected to proposed rezoning because it would allow for greater development than what they had in mind. Pat Alcorn asks, “What are they hiding?” I’d like to know what it is in our Hillside Management restrictions that New Urban West finds such a deal-killer.

Another question raised (though not by anybody other than the developer and their proponents) has been why so many of us have endorsed this petition requiring compliance with our Hillside Management restrictions. According to Neighbors for Fairness, it’s because signa-

ture gatherers told us lies. They won’t explain how what we’ve been told necessarily contradicts the facts – but confidently assert we’ve been lied to, nonetheless.

Our Mayor Gene Goss takes it in another direction as he was quoted in New Urban West’s full-page ad in this paper a few weeks ago, “I think a lot of them would be opposed to this if they looked at it closely.” Suggesting to your constituency, especially one with a notably high income and educational demographic, that they might lack the sophistication necessary to read and understand the fine print themselves is not a particularly good look for any elected official. It might be better to simply tell us what we’d find if we did indeed look more “closely”.

And then there are Councilmembers suggesting we should simply roll over because the developer threatens a lawsuit. Great - just the message we want to send – that if anybody wants to do anything anywhere in our town, all they have to do is threaten litigation and Sierra Madre’s leaders will cave.

So – in these past six months I’ve heard the arguments: New Urban West and their investors are on a quest to safeguard religious freedom. They refuse to comply with our Hillside Management restrictions because it would allow them to build bigger houses than what they’d planned. Those who signed the Petition did so because they were lied to and/or were just too dumb to understand what they were signing.

I’ve been involved with a number of political campaigns, but if I were engaged as a consultant on this one, I’d have to say, “C’mon, guys – if you really want to shut this down, you’d better come up with something that makes sense!” Howard Hays, Sierra Madre





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# SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA

## NIGERIA NEEDS YOUR VOICE

On Thursday, August 11th, 2022, The Sierra Madre Rotary Club hosted a fire-side chat with Father Mike Ohanete in the home of Tom and Julie Brady.

Father Mike is a Catholic Priest, born and raised in Nigeria. Father Mike is currently covering for Father Tom Baker, the pastor at St. Rita's Church in Sierra Madre while Father Tom is on vacation. They have been close friends and associates since 2007.

Father Mike spoke about how Nigeria has turned from a peaceful and happy country, where Muslim and Christians have lived side by side peacefully for centuries into a country filled with fear and violence. In 2015 Muhammadu Buhari took over as president through a rigged election. President Buhari has since, directly and indirectly, appealed to the Fulani peoples to descend upon Nigeria to eradicate Nigerian Christians using threats, terror, torture and murder.

The Fulani tribes are nomad Muslims that herd cattle all over Africa. They live in tents in the bush. The Fulani people are now infiltrating Nigeria and are attempting to scourge the country of all Christians with the Christian clergy at the forefront of their violence.

Father Mike shared that he has been able to sleep while visiting here in America. In Nigeria "sleep is a luxury that you can't afford, as you don't know if someone is going to try to break in and kidnap or kill you." People travel during the day and avoid being out after sun down. The Fulani people are more active and aggressive at night. Their acts of killing and maiming of innocent people are tacitly approved by the government of Buhari and his cabals.

Father Mike shared Nigeria's love and appreciation for America. His face lit up when he talked about America and how it represents tolerance and freedom for all religions to the Nigerian people.

To give your support to the Nigerian people, please send letters/emails/messages to President Buhari and the Nigerian senate thoughtfully asking them to cease their purge of Nigerian Christians. Email [info@statehouse.gov.ng](mailto:info@statehouse.gov.ng) or message FB/Muhammadu Buhari.

If you would like to donate funds for security and security personnel to protect churches and clergy members as well as provide needed shelter, repairs and clothing to the Nigerian people, please send it to Father Tom at St. Rita's church with a note "For Nigeria/Father Mike".

Brave Father Mike's parting prayer as he returns to Nigeria, "Let nothing trouble you, let nothing affright you, all things pass, God never changes, Patience obtains all things, he who has God finds he lacks nothing, God alone suffices. --St. Theresa of Avila."

Thank you for your voice and support.  
The Sierra Madre Rotary Club  
Submitted By: Kellie Strubinski



## WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

*"A room without books is like a body without a soul." Cicero*

*"The summer night has a smile of light, and she sits on a sapphire throne." Barry Cornwall*

*"It doesn't matter what you look at, it's what you SEE."*

This past week I've been seeing a lot of books as it's too hot to actually get it together and accomplish anything requiring going outside. Finished Elin Hilderbrand's book, "The Perfect Couple," and Susan Wiggs' "Between You and Me." I thoroughly enjoyed both of these. Lots of drama, angst, regret, secrets, a little possible murder and people not being what the world thinks they are. My favorite is still Susan Wiggs' "The Lost and Found Bookshop." I'm surrounded by books here in my house but I'm kind of ashamed to admit that I do most of my reading on my Kindle or my phone. This doesn't keep Barnes & Noble in business, but when you want something new right this minute, it's just a button-push away. I fear I've become one of the "Instant Gratification takes too long!" generation.



Sharing my innermost thoughts this week, here's another: I love doing puzzles. My granddaughter, Jessie, and I have done so many of them. That's the picture this week, puzzles on the shelf we have completed together over the years. However, her other grandparents recently gave her a new puzzle of Mesa Verde National Park. Mesa Verde is located in Montezuma County, Colorado, and shows the Hisatsinom ruin, cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde. We have had this puzzle out for weeks and have made absolutely no progress on it. However, we shall continue, we shall prevail! If you're a puzzle fan, you know how we feel. Frustrated!!

August has worn out her welcome as far as I'm concerned. The summer night may have a smile of light but I'm really tired of her! I'm so ready for Fall. I want to put my collection of pumpkins out all over my house, I want to pick a big one out of the giant box full of them at the market. I want a pumpkin spice latte. Yes, I know Starbucks is raising the price to where a small indulgence is turning into a significant luxury, but I just really want one. I want to wear a sweater! And maybe jeans! And take a coat with me! I'm so ready for Fall!

"Advice from a pumpkin: Be well rounded, give thanks for life's bounty, have a thick skin, keep growing, be outstanding in your field... Think Big!"

"Aprils have never meant much to me; autumns seem that season of beginning...Spring!" Truman Capote

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the Fall." F. Scott Fitzgerald

You're probably ready for Fall, too. There are so many great songs about September: "September" by Earth, Wind & Fire; "Wake Me Up When September Ends" Green Day; "September Morn" Neil Diamond; and, best of all, "September Song" by Kurt Weill and Maxwell Anderson.

Songs about August? Well, much to my surprise, there are some: "First Day in August" Carole King; "The 33<sup>rd</sup> of August" Waylon Jennings; "August is Over" We the Kings (a wishful thinking song if ever I heard one) and Neil Diamond's "Hot August Night" album, with all the great songs in it. OK, I'll quit August bashing and quietly count the days till September. Speaking of counting days, there are only 137 days left in 2022, and 131 days till Christmas.

New topic, friends and neighbors: Facebook and Photography! I love Facebook. I know a lot of you don't, but in my gentle Facebook world, all I see are the faces of family and dear friends and pictures of wonderful things. Yes, all my grandchildren, but other wonderful things, too. For instance...there are a number of great photographers in Sierra Madre who display their excellent work on Facebook for all the world to see. At the top of my list, currently, is Ken Fong, who takes the most extraordinary pictures of hummingbirds. To quote Ken from his Facebook page: "After teaching myself how best to photograph hummingbirds in our backyard for the past several years, these are by far my best. (I agree!) Rare moments captured, sharp details, stunning colors. If you've seen my earlier albums of hummers drinking from this fountain, they were either perched on one side of the lip or I only managed to capture a few frames of their drinking. I'll be submitting one of these in the 2022 AFC Nature Photography contest." Ken's pictures of birds are simply breathtaking. You need to take a look!

Another of our Sierra Madre photographers to be found on Facebook is Sharon Pevsner, who takes glorious pictures of sunrises from mountain peaks all over our area. Seeing downtown Los Angeles through Sharon's eyes early in the morning is a definite lifter of the spirits. Lawrence Taylor takes so many pictures around town but his specialty is beach pictures. He manages to find pristine stretches of beach, deserted lifeguard towers, sunsets to take your breath away.

In addition to works by fabulous photographers, my Facebook shows beautiful landscapes sent along by friends, awesome and unusual birds and animals, places I never knew existed and, of course, an inspirational and uplifting thought or two. And bears, my friends! So many Sierra Madreans take fabulous pictures of bears wandering through their yards, lounging in their trees, relaxing in their pools...these are such a delight to see, in addition to the deer who nibble gardens here and there. John and I spent so many hours walking up in the canyon seeing deer who would turn their beautiful heads and look at us before resuming their snack of someone's roses. We would look at each other, sharing the wonder, and stand for minutes watching these beautiful creatures just a few feet away from us. My friend, Bob Gollighugh, who lives in Monrovia, posts so many pictures of bears and deer who frequent his front yard. And I see them all on Facebook.

If you're not a Facebook fan, you might consider taking a look at the work by these local photographers. You'll be glad you did. You may discover a treasure that fits your heart and mind right this very minute! Meanwhile...Celebrate Everything!

"Sunrises & Sunflowers Speak Hope"  
Supplies a little hope on every page.

Look for it on my book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis

"Star of Wonder" is now on TuneCore! Take a look!

It's the fabulous music from "Star of Wonder - A Christmas Musical"  
Lyrics by me, Music by David Wheatley

**Catch breaking news at:**  
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## Weather Wise



6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun:	Sunny	Hi	90s	Lows 60s
Mon:	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 60s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 60s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 60s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 60s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

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

August 23, 2022 5:30pm

### THIS MEETING WILL 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 [foothillsmmedia.org/sierramadre](http://foothillsmmedia.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).

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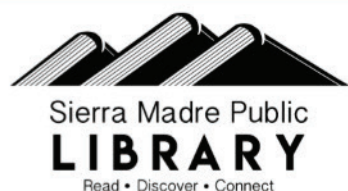
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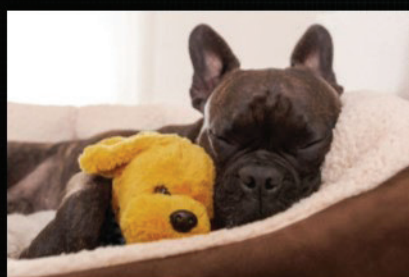
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This week at the  
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August 22-27

All Library events will be napping for the  
rest of the month!



Regular programming at the Library will  
resume in September. In the meantime,  
check out Walk This Way Story Adventure  
at Memorial Park—a new picture book  
will be posted every other Monday!

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Applications and more information can be found here:  
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Planning Commission has one (1) expected vacancy.

Community Services Commission has one (1) expected  
vacancy.

Library Board of Trustees has two (2) anticipated vacancies.

Natural Resources Commission has one current vacancy  
and one anticipated vacancy for a total of two (2) vacancies.

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Zen Shin



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# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## Custodian Handcuffed Held at Gunpoint



Pasadena police released video this week after the local community became outraged over a longtime Pasadena Unified School District janitor being mistaken as a burglar Sunday morning at San Rafael Elementary School.

The Body Cam video shows the unnamed custodian shortly before 9 a.m. being handcuffed, on his knees, at gunpoint although he identifies who he is.

The custodian was held for over six minutes as officers confirmed who he was with the school principal, Rudy Ramirez.

The original 911 call was also made public. The caller said that someone had climbed the school's fence with a backpack and a bag.

Interim City Manager Cynthia Kurtz said in a statement that officers acted professional and consistent with city and Police Department policies.

She said that the guns used by the officers were non-lethal with foam bullets.

## Pasadena Police Make Arrest in Stabbing

Pasadena police arrested a 26-year-old Man from Los Angeles Saturday night for the alleged stabbing murder of a man in North Central Pasadena earlier that night.

According to detectives, at about 10:53 p.m. officers responded to the 600 block of North Lake Avenue regarding an "Assault with a Deadly Weapon" call. On arrival, officers located an unresponsive male in the street suffering from multiple stab wounds. The victim was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Within a few minutes of the original call, a male suspect was detained by officers a short distance away from the crime scene. The suspect, identified as 26-year-old Sadarius Lawson of Los Angeles, was booked at the Pasadena Police Department for murder.

Detectives from the Pasadena Police Department's Robbery / Homicide Unit responded to the crime scene to commence immediate follow-up investigation. The investigation is on-going.

The identity of the victim and the motive behind the crime were unknown at the time.

Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to call Pasadena Police at (626)- 744-4241 or you may report information anonymously by calling "Crime Stoppers" by dialing (800) 222-TIPS (8477).



## City to Go to One Day Watering Early

The city council voted Monday to move up Pasadena Water and Power's one day per week outdoor irrigation schedule, two months, from starting November 1 to now starting September 1.

"The Metropolitan Water District notified us... that they are going to be doing an emergency repair to one of their pipelines in [early to] mid September and they are asking everybody to reduce watering as much as possible in September for 15 days," said Interim Pasadena Water and Power General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger. "So the idea after discussing it with Municipal Services Committee is that Pasadena would accelerate its move to one day of watering from November 1 up to September 1 to help Metropolitan out."

The updated watering schedule will only allow even-numbered street addresses to water on Mondays and odd-numbered street addresses to water on Tuesdays. Outdoor watering must take place before 9 a.m.

or after 6 p.m. according to city officials.

Councilmember Steve Madison asked if Pasadena Water and Power could go back to two days of watering earlier than April to offset the change. Staff said that the one day a week watering would most likely last longer not shorter.

California is contending with unprecedented drought conditions, with the last three years setting the record as the driest three-year period in state history according to staff.

"Every drop of water that we save now puts us in a better position in the future. Pasadena continues to be a leader in conservation, and residents and businesses are making great strides in water savings," Kightlinger said. "Now is the time for customers to make long-term investments in water-use efficiency by making changes like removing thirsty turf and replacing it with drought-tolerant landscaping, and upgrading to more efficient outdoor watering systems."

PWP will continue to receive water deliveries from MWD

## Holden Names Vrej Pastry Small Business of the Year

In a ceremony in Sacramento Wednesday, Assemblymember Chris Holden honored Vrej Pastry as "Small Business of the Year" for the 41st Assembly District. Vrej (Frank) and Armig Tomboulian- co-owners of Vrej Pastry, accepted the recognition during the annual Small Business of the Year luncheon organized by the California Small Business Association. Vrej Pastry recently celebrated their 28th anniversary.

"The fabric of Pasadena is made of local small businesses that provide us a glimpse of culture through traditional food," said Assemblymember Chris Holden. "From Lebanon to Pasadena, the Lebanese and Armenian sweets have a place in my heart. Frank and Armig embody the small business American dream."

Vrej Tomboulian was born and raised in a small town in Lebanon to a family of bakers. His father owned a well-known bakery where Vrej would spend much of his time after school, helping customers and learning to bake. In his 30's, he began traveling to and from the US as a tourist. Armig Tomboulian was born and raised in Lebanon as well. After graduating high school, she began working for a jewelry store as a receptionist, often assisting the owners with design.

One evening in August 1987, Vrej had returned to Lebanon and visited a neighbor, where Armig would be tutoring. The two met and married after a month. In 1988, the couple moved to San Diego, CA searching for the American Dream. They started a family,



having two daughters. Vrej and his brother partnered to open a fast food restaurant, but Vrej was not happy. After many trials and tribulation, Vrej and Armig decided to move to Pasadena, CA where they found an incredible Armenian community in which they raised their children, and in 1994, opened the doors to their business, Vrej Pastry.

At first, Vrej would do all the baking and designing, while Armig tended to customers. Armig began to pick up some techniques, learning what she could from Vrej, then finding other resources to learn more about cake design. The early years were difficult, but they were blessed. The business began to grow, and additional staff was hired. Customers would come from all parts of California, and eventually, other states. The demand for their desserts were so high, customers would request additional locations.

"We've been in business for 28 years and called Pasadena our home. We are so excited to be honored as small business of the year and to continue sharing our Lebanese and Armenian homemade desserts with everyone," said Vrej (Frank) and Armig Tomboulian- co-owners of Vrej Pastry.

during the shutdown September 6 through September 20. But as the supply source will be switched to severely limited State Water Project supplies for the duration of the shutdown.

The PWP will also hold, Control Your Controller, an online workshop August 27 on how to adjust your irrigation controller in preparation for the September 1, one day per week watering schedule. The workshop will also cover smart controller features, how to properly time watering for different zones, and more.

For more information visit: PWPweb.com/SaveWater.

*Pictured, Sheldon Reservoir, drought tolerant parkway, and Community Demonstration Garden.*

## Tournament To Host Golf Classic

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses Foundation announced Thursday the inaugural Golf Classic presented by J.P. Morgan Private Bank. Golfers will tee off on Monday, September 12, and raise funds to support a diverse range of local organizations.

"Since our founding, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses has given more than \$4 million to support the greater Pasadena community. All the proceeds from our inaugural Foundation Golf Classic will allow us to provide even more support to exceptional non-profit groups serving the community. We are extraordinarily grateful to our Golf Classic sponsors and participants. Their philanthropic generosity will benefit many organizations ranging from youth sports to senior wellness programs," said Mark S. Harmsen, President of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Foundation.

Golfers will enjoy the Brookside Golf Club in Pasadena, designed by famed golf architect William P. Bell, nestled in the beautiful Arroyo Seco. The Golf Classic offers a unique opportunity, a chance to hit a golf ball onto the field where the Rose Bowl Game® has been played for the past 100 years.

The Tournament of Roses Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit public benefit corporation established to receive and manage contributions from the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, its supporters and the general public. Organizations or individuals interested in making a contribution or inquiring about the grants process should contact the Foundation by visiting:

tournamentofroses.com/foundation.

## Jingle the keys, San Marino Motor Classic to Support PH



Pasadena Humane reminds animal and car lovers to mark your calendar for the dog-friendly San Marino Motor Classic on Aug. 28. You and your pup can enjoy a day of strolling through hundreds of mint-condition collector cars at Lacy Park in San Marino.

"I first attended the San Marino Motor Classic in 2019, the day before I started my new position as president and CEO at Pasadena Humane," said Dia DuVernet President and CEO of Pasadena Humane. "Having just moved to Pasadena from Virginia, I was dazzled by the cars, in addition to being star struck when I spotted Jay Leno in the crowd."

DuVernet continued, "Turns out Mr. Leno is an animal lover, in addition to being a car aficionado. When he stopped by Pasadena Humane's Wiggle Waggle Wagon — not to see the modern RV, but to visit with the adoptable dogs — he ended up making a celebrity out of Blue, helping to get him adopted."

The Wiggle Waggle Wagon will be at the event again this

year with adoptable pets. Even if you are not interested in adopting, you will be supporting Pasadena Humane's lifesaving work by attending the San Marino Motor Classic. Pasadena Humane is a primary beneficiary of this year's show, she said.

"We are incredibly grateful to the San Marino Motor Classic for many years of supporting the animals in our community," DuVernet said. "Since its founding in 2011, the San Marino Motor Classic has awarded in excess of \$2.3 million to local charities, including more than \$1 million to Pasadena Humane."

If you'd like to help our volunteers staff the event, please send an email to volunteer@pasadenahumane.org. If you go

The event takes place 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is \$35 in advance; \$40 at the door; \$150 VIP, includes lunch. Lacy Park is located 1485 Virginia Road, San Marino.

For more information visit: sanmarinomotorclassic.com.

## Pasadena Proclaims Monkeypox Emergency

Interim City Manager Cynthia Kurtz proclaimed a local emergency Thursday to strengthen the city's preparedness and ability to respond to the virus. In an effort to stop the spread of monkeypox and make the monkeypox vaccine more readily accessible to those at highest risk, Pasadena Public Health Department (PPHD) is also expanding the eligibility criteria for the vaccine, effective immediately.

"We are continuing to work proactively to protect the health of our community, and this proclamation allows us to mobilize more resources," Kurtz said. "This local emergency will allow us to continue to support our community members who are currently most at-risk, while also to better prepare for what's to come."

The proclamation allows the city to take all actions

necessary to implement preventive measures to protect and preserve public health, including, but not limited to, mobilizing city resources, accelerating emergency planning; streamlining staffing; coordinating across other agencies; expediting the ability of the city to purchase necessary supplies to combat monkeypox; allowing for future reimbursement by the state and federal governments; and raising awareness throughout Pasadena about monkeypox, including how people can lower their risk and stop the spread.

Earlier this month, the governor proclaimed a state of emergency to support the state's response to monkeypox. Additionally, Los Angeles and Orange Counties have issued similar proclamations to bolster their preparedness.

Currently, PPHD has 15 confirmed or probable cases of monkeypox in Pasadena. There are reportedly 2,356 cases in California as of Aug. 17, according to the California Department of Public Health.

For more information on monkeypox, please visit: cityofpasadena.net/monkeypox.

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Sierra Madre based non-profit





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Letter by Pasadena Mayor: San Rafael Elementary School

To the residents of our community and the parents of the children who attend San Rafael Elementary School:

As Mayor of Pasadena, and as an alumnus of PUSD schools, I represent a very diverse population and feel it's imperative to address the actions of San Rafael Elementary School Principal Rudy Ramirez.

On Sunday, August 14, a resident called the Pasadena Police Department, believing a possible crime was in progress at the neighborhood elementary school. Our Police Department responded as they will with every call for help received, and located an individual on the campus who was later identified as the school custodian. In the context of what has happened recently in schools across the country, it is appropriate for our officers to respond to all concerns involving our schools and school children.

While I was not there, I reviewed all videos and reports of the incident. Our Police Department did detain the custodian, subsequently verified his identity, and he was released within six and half minutes. We believe our officers acted professionally, respectfully, and with caution while responding to a call by a resident.

As leaders of our City, school district, and schools, it is our collective responsibility to act professionally and work together to resolve issues. Our comments are a reflection of ourselves, and as leaders we need to set an example for the students and young persons in our community. We represent the people of our community, and there is no place for divisive statements or jumping to conclusions before facts are made clear.

Principal Ramirez made very derogatory racial remarks that were caught on camera and recorded in a report by the school district's security officer. He made remarks that were not factual and were inflammatory. As a leader, mentor and supervisor, he is held to a higher standard, and should be held accountable for the impact his behavior has caused. A school principal is a leader and educator of educators who ultimately shape the minds and views of our children. Whether during work hours or responding after hours, his demeanor, professionalism and judgement should not deviate.

Race-based denigrating statements are never appropriate. Biased statements directed or intended to denigrate people based on skin color were wrong in times long past, wrong on Sunday, and will always be wrong. There is no place in our society for these types of statements, and certainly not in Pasadena. These denigrating biased statements made by Principal Ramirez are offensive, and on behalf of my constituents, I have a difficult time accepting his apology.

The City of Pasadena will continue to work diligently to build trust and communication between our police, the school district and our community. We will continue our commitment to supporting our school district so they may provide students with the best educational opportunities possible, as education is the key to stomping out ignorance, hate, and systemic racism wherever it exists. The answer to past racism is not more racism. We should always denounce hate and racism whenever and wherever we encounter it.

Victor Gordo Pasadena Mayor

Dine Aug. 24 to Support Pasadena Senior Center

Leave the dinner preparation to Edwin Mills by Equator, 22 Mills Alley in Old Pasadena on Wednesday, Aug. 24, from 3 to 11 p.m. and support the Pasadena Senior Center at the same time.

Featuring New American cuisine such as potato-wrapped snapper, sweet chicken, short rib tacos and more, the restaurant will donate 15 percent of that evening's profits to the Pasadena Senior Center on behalf of everyone who prints out the flyer from the PSC website and hands it to a server or cashier. Diners can eat at the restaurant or order takeout. The menu can be found at [www.edwinmills.com](http://www.edwinmills.com).

To download the flyer, visit: [pasadenaseniiorcenter.org](http://pasadenaseniiorcenter.org) and click on Dine Out &

Benefit PSC.

"Teddy, the owner of Edwin Mills, has been a generous supporter of the Pasadena Senior Center, from making sizable donations to personally delivering meals to our staff during the pandemic," said Akila Gibbs, executive director of the center. "I really encourage the people of Pasadena to show some support of Edwin Mills by Equator on Aug. 24, which also will help support the Pasadena Senior Center."

Anyone who cannot dine at Edwin Mills by Equator on Aug. 24 will still have an opportunity to support the center by visiting the Pasadena Senior Center website and clicking on Donation & Membership.

For more information visit the PSC website or call 626-795-4331.

Huntington Acquires the Archive of LA Architects John and Donald Parkinson



John Parkinson



Donald Parkinson

The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens has acquired the archive of notable early 20th-century Los Angeles architects John and Donald Parkinson. The little-known cache contains more than 20,000 items, including drawings, blueprints, office records, photographs, and ephemera. Adding dramatically to The Huntington's growing strength in Southern California architectural history, this acquisition was made possible by the donation of Wm. Scott Field, a restoration architect who took great care in stewarding the archive for decades.

"The Parkinson archive unlocks the process behind the creation of some of the most iconic buildings in Los Angeles," said Erin Chase, assistant curator of architecture and photography at The Huntington. "Spanning 100 years, and chronicling the firm's work in such detail, the collection will be the cornerstone of our Southern California architecture and planning materials documenting the growth of our region in the early 20th century."

The firm's landmark buildings in LA include Bullocks Wilshire; Braly Block, the city's first skyscraper; the Homer Laughlin Building (now Grand Central Market); Los Angeles City Hall; the Memorial Coliseum; and Union Station, in addition to the campus master plan for USC. These buildings were either designed by John Parkinson and his partner Edwin Bergstrom (Parkinson and Bergstrom, 1905-1915) or by John and his son, Donald Parkinson (Parkinson and Parkinson, 1920-1935). The archive spans from 1894 to 1994, during which John Parkinson and his successors developed more than 400 structures. The wealth of materials from the early 1900s to the 1930s demonstrate the rapid growth of Los Angeles at that time.

"Walking in downtown Los Angeles, one can see a Parkinson building in almost every direction," said Stephen Gee, author of *Iconic Vision: John Parkinson, Architect of Los Angeles*. "The Parkinson collection is a treasure trove of rare materials that tells the

story of an architect considered by many historians to be one of the founders of modern Los Angeles. This archive is an incredible tool for researchers and scholars who want to understand how Los Angeles grew from an outpost to a major metropolis on the West Coast."

The Parkinson archive includes nearly 20,000 original ink-on-linen detailed drawings and blueprints created by the firm, as well as books from the firm's architecture library, business records, project photographs and slides, and ephemera. It enhances The Huntington's existing Los Angeles architecture collections, which include the papers of architect Wallace Neff; the Foss Construction Company; and the Morgan, Walls, and Clements firm.

"Forming the core of this collection are thousands of original drawings created by the firm," said Sandra L. Brooke, The Huntington's Avery Director of the Library. "These are one-of-a-kind, richly detailed renderings that, for many buildings, cover the entire scope of the project—from elevations and floor plans to technical specifications and design details. They are in extraordinary condition, a testament to the donor who took great care in managing the archive for decades. We couldn't be more delighted with this landmark acquisition."

The collection will open to researchers after it has been processed.

The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens is a cultural and educational institution of global significance. Building on Henry E. and Arabella Huntington's renowned collections, The Huntington supports research and promotes education in the arts, humanities, and botanical science through the growth and preservation of its collections; the development of a community of scholars, school programs, and partnerships; and the display and interpretation of its extraordinary resources for diverse audiences. The Huntington is located at 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California, 12 miles from downtown Los Angeles. Visitor information: [huntington.org](http://huntington.org).

San Marino Upcoming Events & Programming

Family Storytime

Tuesday, August 23 at 10:30 AM, Children's Area  
Storytime features activities for children ages 5 and under that will promote early literacy and lifelong learning through songs, movement, fingerplays, and books. Storytime is also an opportunity for caregivers to learn ways they can incorporate learning activities into everyday routines. Storytime occurs weekly on Tuesday through October 4. Registration is not required. Please watch our social media for cancellations.

Recent Happenings

The City's tree maintenance contractor, Mariposa Landscaping, is currently working on a one-time cleanup of City medians along Huntington Drive, Sierra Madre Boulevard, and Old Mill Road. This involved moving, edging, spraying, and weeding the medians to ensure they remain safe and aesthetically pleasing. Additionally, Mariposa recently completed pruning and shaping of trees along Mission Street. In the coming weeks, they will complete additional raise pruning to ensure Fire Department vehicles have sufficient clearance when driving on City streets.

Ongoing Maintenance

Public Works staff completed tasks such as removing fallen tree branches, palm fronds, and other debris from the public right-of-way, replacing streetlight bulbs and street signs, repairing pavement, and completing minor repairs at different City facilities. Additionally, staff is currently trimming the oleander bushes along westbound Huntington Drive between Granada and Los Robles to help ensure they are not encroaching into the road and impacting traffic safety. Residents who wish to report non-emergency issues in the public right-of-way or on City streets may do so via the San Marino Service Request Center: [www.cityofsanmarino.org/report](http://www.cityofsanmarino.org/report).

Fall Community Services Guide

Check out the latest Community Services Guide to see Fall offerings and get details on upcoming events, classes, and lectures. Hard copies will be delivered to San Marino households in the next few days. Registration for begins on August 22 for residents and August 29 for non-residents.

Fire Department

On Saturday, August 13, the San Marino Fire Department said goodbye to one of our members. Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Corral, who joined the department in 2020, recently accepted a lateral position with the Corona Fire Department. We wish all the best to Firefighter Corral as he starts a new career with the City of Corona. Recruitment for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic is currently open and accepting applications.

On Monday, August 8, the San Marino Unified School District hosted a safety summit for teachers and staff in preparation for the new school year. Fire Chief Rueda and Police Chief Incontro, along with Dr. Tony Beliz and Superintendent Linda de la Torre, participated in a panel about preparation and response to potential safety issues.

Members of the Fire Department conducted wildland training for the department's three probationary firefighters. As part of the California Office of Emergency Services mutual aid system, the San Marino Fire Department may be dispatched to respond to wildland fires throughout the state. In 2021, San Marino firefighters responded to the Dixie, Caldor, and Beckwourth Complex incidents in Northern California, and provided more than 4,000 personnel hours in mutual aid response.

Safe Driving in School Zones

With the new school year underway, the Parks and Public Works Department would like to remind residents of the importance of traffic safety and driving with caution near schools. Please be sure to obey all speed limits (especially the 20 MPH speed limit in school zones) and traffic signage, and to be particularly mindful of pedestrians and bikers crossing the road near schools. Safe driving can help ensure all members of the community are safe when driving, walking, or biking.

Meetings

Library Board of Trustees Meeting  
Monday, August 22 at 8 AM; Teleconference  
Planning Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, August 24 at 6 PM; Teleconference

South Pasadena Library Scary Story Contest for Kids



The entries will be judged by the Children's Services librarians and by special judge, Xanthe Pajarillo, a director-writer, podcaster and Air Force veteran from Germany and Virginia. She directed the 2021 Fangoria Chainsaw Awards on Shudder, has written for Fangoria and Bloody Disgusting and with her 13-year old niece, co-hosts a kids horror podcast titled Kindergeist which explores horror through fun, inspiring and meaningful dialogue. She received her MFA from USC's School of Cinematic Arts, her BFA from CalArts, and is an intern alumni of HBO, Will and Jada Smith's Overbrook Entertainment and Michel Gondry's Partizan Entertainment.

The Scary Story Contest is sponsored by the Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library, Inc.

The South Pasadena Public Library is located at 1100 Oxley Street in South Pasadena. Visit the Library website at: [southpasadenaca.gov/library](http://southpasadenaca.gov/library) for information about services and programs.

South Pas Library Community Blood Drive



Help save a life.  
Schedule your blood donation appointment today.



Tuesday, August 30 from Noon to 6:00 p.m.

To schedule your life-saving appointment, please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter sponsor code: SOPASLIB

ON THE DAY OF THE DRIVE: Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions.

The Library Community Room is located 1115 El Centro St.

For more information about the South Pasadena Library visit: [southpasadenaca.gov](http://southpasadenaca.gov).

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

Altadena Main Library 55th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday • August 28 11:00am — 2:00pm Main Library Parking Lot 600 E. Mariposa St.

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Altadena Libraries



## SCHIFF, L.A. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION: MORE MONKEYPOX VIRUS VACCINES NEEDED

**As County Caseload Explodes, Vaccine Supply Through FDA's Alternative Dosing Regimen Still Falls Short of Projected Demand**

Los Angeles, Calif. – Today, Congressman Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) and 10 members of the Los Angeles County area Congressional Delegation sent a letter to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra highlighting the urgent need to increase the supply of the monkeypox virus vaccine. This comes as the L.A. County Department of Public Health reported more than 100 new cases over the weekend and that its vaccine supply is expected to run out in the next two weeks, forcing them to pause pre-registration for appointments.

“We are encouraged by the Biden administration’s recent actions declaring monkeypox a public health emergency and issuing an emergency use authorization to help expand JYNNEOS vaccine supply. While these are critical steps in the public health response to MPV, we strongly urge the Department of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the White House, to take further steps to procure and distribute additional JYNNEOS vaccine doses to ensure areas that have been hardest hit, including Los Angeles, have adequate vaccine supply,” the members wrote in the letter.

Congressman Schiff first wrote to Secretary Becerra on July 20 urging the federal government to bolster its monkeypox virus (MPV) response, including by increasing the manufacturing and distribution of vaccines, supporting more health care provider and community outreach, and developing a long-term strategy to ensure access to testing, vaccination, treatment, and provider education for years to come.

On August 9, after public health experts and elected officials like Congressman Schiff raised the alarm about the United States’ limited supply of MPV vaccine doses, the FDA announced it had granted Emergency Use Authorization for the JYNNEOS vaccine to be administered intradermally, increasing the number of doses available through the existing supply. However, clinical data available about the alternative dosing regimen is limited to a single 2015 study, and will require urgent and comprehensive outreach to health care providers on how to use the more specialized administration method.

Furthermore, while the existing vaccine supply and alternative dosing regimen could fully vaccinate 1 million people, the CDC estimates about 1.7 million people are currently at the highest risk for MPV infection – and as cases continue to climb and the virus spreads beyond the communities already impacted, the highest-risk population will inevitably grow. In Los Angeles County, more than 100 new cases were reported just last weekend, and the Department of Public Health has nearly exhausted its current vaccine dosages. Therefore, the members are encouraging the federal government to look beyond the emergency use authorization and take additional steps to increase its overall vaccine supply.

“As of August 12, 2022, Los Angeles County – the most populous county in the United States with over 10 million residents – has received only 43,290 doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine. Supply is not meeting demand, and as the virus continues to spread demand will inevitably increase. While we are encouraged by the potential to expand the number of available doses through implementation of intradermal administration, this approach alone will not suffice,” the members added.

The August 17 letter is cosigned by Representatives Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Downey), Grace Napolitano (D-Norwalk), Linda Sánchez (D-Whittier), Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park), Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles), Tony Cárdenas (D-Los Angeles), Mark Takano (D-Riverside), Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-San Pedro), and Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles).

## LA COUNTY HEALTH UPDATE

**As COVID-19 Numbers Continue to Improve, Residents Can Take Steps to Protect the Most Vulnerable**

**4,274 New Positive Cases and 13 New Deaths Due to COVID-19 in Los Angeles County**

As Los Angeles County’s COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths continue to decline, residents can help protect those who are the most vulnerable to the virus. Residents can help reduce the high rate of transmission by being fully vaccinated, getting tested when exposed and before gatherings, masking indoors, and staying home while sick or recovering from COVID-19.

The Omicron variant continues to account for 100% of sequenced specimens and the BA.5 subvariant of Omicron remains the most predominant subvariant. In the week ending July 30, 88% of all sequenced specimens in LA County were BA.5. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that, across the country, as of the week ending August 13, the BA.5 subvariant accounted for 89% of specimens.

The relative proportions of other key sublineages Public Health is tracking changed only slightly, including BA.2.12.1 which has declined to 4%, and BA 4.6 which remains at just over 1.5%. To date, only three specimens of BA.2.75 have been detected, indicating no increased circulation of this sublineage here. This is welcome news since it indicates that the new strains currently circulating remain at a low level and do not appear poised to outcompete BA.5 in the very near future.

The 7-day average case count today is 3,577 cases, a 2% drop from 3,660 cases a week prior. The 7-day average test positivity rate over the past week also declined slightly to 10.1%, from 10.7% one week ago.

Over the last seven days, the average number of COVID-positive patients per day in LA County hospitals was 1,009, a decline of 10% from one week ago when the 7-day average number of COVID-positive patients per day was 1,118. The CDC reported LA County’s hospital admission rate at 8.9 weekly hospital admissions per 100,000 people, a decrease from the rate of 9.9 reported a week ago. Deaths, which typically lag hospitalizations by several weeks, dropped slightly to an average of 13 deaths reported each day this past week, compared to an average of 14 daily reported deaths one week ago.

Getting vaccinated continues to provide protection from severe illness and hospitalization, especially for the most vulnerable residents living in communities with high rates of poverty. For the 30-day period ending August 4, unvaccinated residents living in the highest poverty areas were 11 times more likely to be hospitalized than their vaccinated counterparts. And while 77% of LA County residents age 5 and older are fully vaccinated, only 35% of children 5-11 years old are fully vaccinated, and less than 7% of children under 5 have received at least one dose.

There are thousands of vaccination locations across the county. Residents can visit the Public Health website at [VaccinateLACounty.com](http://VaccinateLACounty.com) or [VacunateLosAngeles.com](http://VacunateLosAngeles.com) (Spanish) to find locations, and schedules for clinics offering COVID-19 vaccines.

For those who have any questions about vaccine safety and effectiveness, please reach out to your healthcare provider or speak with a Public Health staff member at the COVID-19 call center, 1-833-540-0473 between the hours of 8:00 am and 8:30 pm, seven days a week.

“I send my deepest sympathies and wishes of peace and comfort to the many families who have lost a loved one from COVID-19,” said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. “While lower case and hospitalizations are welcomed, the continued high rate of transmission places many individuals at elevated risk of getting infected, and, for some, there can be serious consequences to a COVID infection. People facing higher risk from COVID include many of our family and friends, along with community residents we encounter every day. Older people, people with underlying health conditions, those who are immunocompromised and those who are unvaccinated are all at elevated risk of experiencing a bad outcome if they get infected. There are also many who face higher risk because their job brings them close to a large number of people. These are often the people we rely on every day to provide food and medicines, to take care of us when we are sick, to drive our buses and trains, to teach and care for our children, and to provide us with essential goods and services. Others face higher risk because they live in very dense communities and overcrowded housing, where viral spread is easier. Living through times of high viral transmission, is like getting through a bad storm. While it is very helpful if each of us is able to have good rain gear, when the storm is of long duration, we often need additional help from others. Having everyone masking when indoors, testing when exposed or sick, staying home when ill, and being up-to-date on their vaccines, provides additional protections that can make a difference for those most vulnerable.”

Friday, Public Health reported 13 additional deaths and 4,274 new positive cases today. Of the 13 new deaths reported today, one person was between the ages of 30 to 49, three people were between the ages of 50-64, two people were between the ages of 65-79, and seven people were aged 80 years or older. Of the 13 newly reported deaths, 11 had underlying health conditions. To date, the total number of deaths in L.A. County is 33,003.

Public Health has reported a total of 3,375,907 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County. Today’s positivity rate is 10.1%.

There are 940 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized. Testing results are available for more than 12,422,000 individuals, with 24% of people testing positive.

A wide range of data and dashboards on COVID-19 from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health are available on the Public Health website at <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov>.

### ALTHOUGH MONKEYPOX VACCINE SUPPLY REMAINS LOW, PUBLIC HEALTH TO BEGIN ADMINISTERING SECOND DOSES

On August 9, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to allow the JYNNEOS vaccine to be given between layers of the skin (intradermally) for people 18 years of age and older at high risk for monkeypox infection. The recent EUA also allows the vaccine to be given beneath the skin (subcutaneously) for people younger than 18 years of age at high risk for monkeypox infection.

This change makes it possible for the number of monkeypox vaccine doses in the country to increase five-fold, as one vial of vaccine can now potentially yield five doses instead of just one dose. Based on the earlier federal allocation plan, LA County expected to receive 14,000 vials this week, which would have yielded an estimated 70,000 monkeypox vaccine doses for eligible LA County residents. However, the federal government clarified earlier this week that LA County will receive 5,600 vials (totaling 28,000 doses), not 14,000 vials. Public Health has received assurances from the federal leadership that additional doses will be available in the coming weeks.

With the arrival of 28,000 doses later today, LA County will open up eligibility to about 8,000 individuals eligible for their second doses. Residents who received their first dose more than 28 days ago can receive their second dose the following ways:

- Residents who received their first dose through their healthcare provider over 28 days ago should contact their provider to schedule an appointment.
- Residents who registered through the Public Health registration system and were vaccinated at a Public Health location will receive a second text message when their second dose is due with instructions on where to receive their second dose.

There will be an additional 19,000 doses distributed to community providers and public vaccine sites providing first doses to those eligible; 1,000 doses are reserved for close contacts, outbreak response, and special populations. Eligible residents needing their first dose can now register by visiting [ph.lacounty.gov/monkeypoxsignup](http://ph.lacounty.gov/monkeypoxsignup).

All first and second doses will be administered intradermally, unless contraindicated. The FDA has advised that those under 18 years of age and adults who have a history of developing keloid scars should get the vaccine beneath the skin (subcutaneously), not between the layers of the skin (intradermally).

Those without access to the internet or needing help with registration, can call the Public Health Call Center at for more information on monkeypox, including general information, testing, treatment, and vaccines at (833)540-0473. The Public Health Call Center is open 7 days a week 8am – 8:30pm.

For more information, please visit: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/monkeypox/>.



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**Free** classes for veterans and first responders that are interested in learning and training in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu are being offered to all men and women who have served our country and communities. Whether you have zero experience or are a seasoned practitioner, all are welcome. No equipment is necessary.

Classes will be held at the G3 Academy in Sierra Madre and are being taught by BJJ blackbelt, Glenn Lambdin, a Vietnam Era Veteran.

If you are interested in learning, training, working on fitness and staying healthy, networking with other vets and first responders, and building a sense of camaraderie, please contact

Glenn Lambdin at (626) 825-0715.  
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The Chef Knows

By Peter Dills

PET FRIENDLY RESTAURANTS UPDATED

First of all, the term “pet friendly” might be considered an oxymoron. The rule of the thumb is that the restaurants have some sort of outdoor (al fresco) patio dining. Each city has its own regulations on laws about bringing Fido to restaurants. Here are a few guidelines that I have come up with.

To keep obliging restaurants happy with their decisions to include pets, here are some etiquette rules you and your pet should follow when dining out:

- Keep your animal leashed at all times.
- No barking
- No begging
- No jumping
- No eating off the table
- No sitting on chairs, tables or benches
- Do not enter the inside of the restaurant.
- Current vaccination tags should be on pet's collar
- Bring your own food dish and water bowl. Health codes prohibit pets from eating and drinking from restaurant dishes and glasses.
- Get your pet to sit under or as close to the table base as possible to reduce the chances of your waiter tripping over your pet



like Susan Henderson and golfing is your thing take your pug to Brookside Golf Course! Well, I know I missed a few but that’s a great list to start with.

Tune in this Sunday afternoon at 5 PM AM 830 Angels Radio  
diningwithdills@gmail.com



FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett

3 CRITICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR HOW TO SAVE FOR YOUR CHILD’S (OR GRANDCHILD’S) COLLEGE EDUCATION

If you have started to save for your child or grandchild's college education, there are many different financial vehicles available to help.

Here’s what we think you should consider as you decide which one to use:

First, consider whether you want your offspring to have broader options than just the traditional college experience.

Since the start of the pandemic, college enrollments have declined by over one million students over the past two years, and with college tuition getting more and more expensive, many students are considering alternatives to the traditional higher education path.

Gap years, travel, trade programs, and online training are replacing the traditional college education path for many, and if you want that to be an option for your children or grandchildren, you should be aware that the traditional college savings plans may not be the best fit for your family.

Second, consider the financial aid consequences of how you are saving for college.

If you think your child or grandchild may need or want to qualify for financial aid, beyond student loans, the way you save for their education may significantly impact their ability to qualify. If your offspring will need financial assistance to pay for their education, it’s vital that the way in which you choose to save will not negatively impact their qualification for such assistance.

Third, consider the income tax consequences of how you are saving for college.

When you set aside money, unless you are saving for retirement in a qualified retirement plan, the income earned on that money is subject to income taxes. However, with various types of college savings plans, you can defer or avoid income taxes altogether.

529 Plans

Since 1996, 529 plans, which are named for Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, have been one of the most popular options for covering college costs. Congress expanded these plans to cover K–12 education in 2017, and it also changed the program to pay up to \$10,000 in student loan debt in 2019.

One reason 529 plans are so popular is due to their tax-saving advantages. The money you contribute to a 529 account grows on a tax-deferred basis, and withdrawals are tax-free, provided they are used for qualified education expenses, such as tuition, room and board, and other education-related fees.

But before you automatically save for your offspring's future education using a 529 plan, keep in mind that to avoid paying taxes, plus a 10% penalty, the money must be used for eligible expenses only. Eligible expenses include tuition and fees, room and board, books, as well as computers and other items if they are required for classwork.

If your child decides not to go to college, you will pay income taxes, plus the 10% penalty to withdraw the funds and use them for something else. Another downside to saving for your child's education in a 529 plan is that your investment options may be significantly limited to only a small selection of mutual funds.

Education Trusts

While 529 plans are quite popular, there is another way to save for your child or grandchild's education using an irrevocable trust. While there isn't any income tax deferral on income earned by the assets held by these trusts, it is possible to structure a trust, so your beneficiaries could qualify for financial aid that they may otherwise be ineligible for with a 529 plan. And in certain circumstances, qualifying for financial aid would be even more valuable than savings on the income taxes owed on income earned by the trust.

In addition to the issue of qualifying for financial aid, another benefit of such trusts is that you can not only save for a single child's or grandchild's education, you can also structure your trust to provide a pool of funds for the education of all family members. Moreover, when creating the trust, “education” can be broadly defined to include any type of learning institution or organization, such as trade schools, educational workshops, community colleges, and private academies, to name just a few options.

Furthermore, you can provide that the trust can pay for alternative education, such as travel, retreats, business building programs, and other nontraditional educational experiences, which may prove even more valuable than college. Bottom line: when you set aside money to educate your family with an education trust, you get to decide exactly how your beneficiaries can use the funds by what is most in alignment with your family values.

MARC

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www.caliLaw.com  
626.355.4000



Dining  
With  
Dills

Katnip News!



Kitten Kaboodle!

Are you almost ready to adopt a kitten or two? We have just acquired a litter of 5—and are they ever cute! They'll be ready for their forever homes by late September, but we are taking applications now. We will have pictures of each one, with their gender, posted on our website next week, at [www.lifelineforpets.org](http://www.lifelineforpets.org), see the Very Young page. Our application to adopt is also on our website, with all adoption information. They will be spayed & neutered, vaccinated, tested, micro-chipped and more prior to home delivery—that's a great savings to you. Not ready to adopt? We can also use fosters and sponsors—just see the details on our Home page. Thank you!



Pet of the Week

Three-year-old Teddy is a friendly, playful dog who often greets people with a wagging tail and a wiggly butt! Teddy loves squeaky toys and prancing in our play yard, but also has a calm side. He enjoys getting affection, and will give kisses or even put his head in your lap to ask for full-body petting.

The adoption fee for dogs is \$150. All dog adoptions include spay or neuter, microchip, and age-appropriate vaccines.

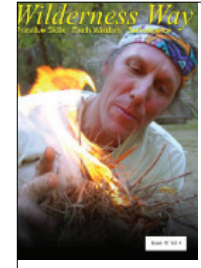
New adopters will receive a complimentary health-and-wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals, as well as a goody bag filled with information about how to care for your pet.

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.



CHRISTOPHER Nyerges



DON'T MAKE A SALAD FROM "POLK SALAD ANNIE"-- GET TO KNOW THE POKEWEED PLANT (Phytolacca americana)

[Nyerges has been teaching ethno-botany since 1974, and has authored nearly two dozen books on self-reliance and survival. More information is at [www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com](http://www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com)]

characteristic and unique flavor, but we all



Poke is actually a toxic plants that has a long history in the South and Eastern states as a good spring food, when properly prepared. It can be found in the West, but not commonly. I first encountered pokeweed while living on my grandfather's farm in Ohio during the summers. As it matures, poke is a large and fairly distinctive plant so once you've seen it a few times, you really can't confuse it with anything else.

A big misconception about eating poke resulted from the popular 1969 song by Tony Joe White called “Polk Salad Annie.” The song was about a girl who picked poke weed, and knew how to prepare it. But if you're from the South, you know that White should have spelled it “Poke Sallet,” since “salad” suggests you eat poke raw – you can't! – and “sallet” refers to cooked greens, which is the proper way you must prepare poke.

In the spring, the first poke shoots are collected, boiled, and the water discarded. The greens are then boiled again, and then discarded again. Then, after that, you can season and eat the greens. At that point, you can season them with any of the traditional dressings, like bacon fat or butter, or add the greens to soup or casseroles.

Here is how herbalist Susun Weed describes the processing of poke greens: “To make your own sallet: Collect very young poke greens as early as possible in the season (late April to mid-May in the Catskills, as early as February in Georgia). Pour boiling water over the greens and boil them one minute. Discard water. Add more boiling water and again boil the greens for one minute. Discard the water. Do this at least twice more before attempting to eat the greens. If you fail to leach out the poisonous compounds -- or are foolish enough to attempt to eat poke leaves raw -- your mouth and throat will feel like they are on fire, you may vomit, and you will no doubt have copious diarrhea.” That's doesn't sound like something enjoyable.

There seems to be scant data in the literature about the use of poke berries for food. I have often read that the berries are poisonous and could kill you and that you should never eat them. According to Donald R. Kirk, author of “Wild Edible Plants of Western North America” “The berries are reported by some to be edible, and by others to be poisonous. Those that use them make them into pies and jellies.”

On our farm, we cooked the berries and made pie. My uncles grew up eating poke pie that their father (my grandfather) made and always enjoyed it. As a new poke eater in my late teens, I simply boiled the mashed fruits, strained out the seeds, sweetened it, and added it to a pie crust. It did have a

ate it and no one got sick. To be fair, some people really love the flavor of cooked poke berries and some will never try it again after the first taste. It's not what I'd call an acquired taste – but it is a unique flavor.

Since everyone's body chemistry is different, I would suggest that you proceed with caution if you decide to try this.

Susun Weed points out that the small seeds in the berries are poisonous. “Lucky for us,” she writes in [sagewoman.com](http://sagewoman.com), “they are too hard for our teeth to break open. I have had pokeberry jam (no worse than blackberry jam, that is, seedy) and pokeberry jelly (ah, no seeds) and pokeberry pie (seedy). Since children are attracted to poke plants and since the berries leave telltale stains on children's mouths and since many parents are frightened if their child eats anything wild, and since medical personnel know little about poke except that it is poisonous, lots of kids have their stomach pumped (for no good reason, since they can't break open the seeds either) after investigating the taste of poke berries.”

These days, when I read about people getting sick from products made from poke berries, I tend to be a bit more cautious. I would suggest mashing the fruits, straining out all seeds and then boiling it thoroughly. Yes, there are those who always bring up the fact that hard-boiling can destroy some vitamins. Yes, but it's either that or vomiting! I prefer the former! Or just avoid these berries altogether and stick to strawberries and grapes.

The poke berries can also be crushed and made into a paint for artworks, and possibly fabrics. I experimented a little with the ink, and found it to be a refreshing color when brushed onto white art paper.

CAUTION:

Yes, you might read in some herbal that the root is good for certain maladies. I suggest that you just leave the root in the ground! The root has sometimes been suggested as a remedy for various inflammations, mastitis, rheumatism, etc., by trained herbalists.

I have often been asked if poke can be confused with any poisonous plants. Well, in fact, poke is a poisonous plant, and so if you eat the young shoots, be sure to cook them twice as described here so you won't get sick.

Remember, never eat ANY wild plant until you've taken the time to be able to 100% identify it, and you've studied its properties.



SAFE PATH FOR SENIORS

Specializing in Placing Seniors in Assisted Living and Memory Care Communities

Many families are faced with the question:, "Should I place my loved one in a senior home?" Good question - but who should you go for answers? SAFE PATH FOR SENIORS!



At Safe Path for Seniors we will assess the senior current living situation and depending on the individual care needs and budget and, make recommendations that will help the entire family deal with this major life changing situation.

For example, we may suggest that the right fit is a Board and Care Home, a smaller, more intimate environment, as opposed to a larger Assisted Living Community.

We will make certain that you work with an experienced agent who knows the industry well and will give you recommendations. And the good news is that there is no cost for this service.

If you have any questions about placing a loved one please visit our website: www.safepathforseniors.com or call Steve at 626-999-6913

WHAT IS AN ANNUAL NOTICE OF CHANGE?

Dear Savvy Senior: Last year I received a "notice of change" letter from my Medicare provider. Should I expect another one this year, and what should I do with it? Medicare Rookie



Dear Rookie:

The letter you're asking about is actually referred to as the Annual Notice of Change (or ANOC), which is a letter you receive from your Medicare Advantage or Medicare Part D prescription drug plan in late September. (People with only a Medigap plan don't receive these because Medigap plans do not have benefit changes from year to year). So yes, you should expect to receive another letter next month.

The ANOC gives a summary of any changes in your plan's costs and coverage that will take effect Jan. 1 of the next year. The ANOC is typically mailed with the plan's "evidence of coverage," which is a more comprehensive list of the plan's costs and benefits for the upcoming year.

You should review these notices to see if your plan will continue to meet your health care needs in 2023. If you are dissatisfied with any upcoming changes, you can make changes to your coverage during fall open enrollment, which runs from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7.

Here are three types of changes to look for:

Costs: If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, find out what you can expect to pay for services in 2023. Costs such as deductibles and copayments can change each year. For example, your plan may not have had a deductible in 2022, but it could have one in 2023. A deductible is the amount of money you owe out-of-pocket before your plan begins to cover your care. Another example is that your plan may increase the copayments you owe for visits to your primary care provider or specialists.

Coverage: If you have an Advantage plan with prescription drug coverage check to see if your doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers and pharmacies will still be in network for 2023. You have the lowest out-of-pocket costs if you go to providers and pharmacies that are in your plan's network. If you see an out-of-network provider, your plan may not cover any of the cost of your care, leaving you to pay the cost out-of-pocket. You should also contact your providers directly to confirm that they will still be accepting your plan in the coming year.

Drugs: If you have prescription drug coverage, look through the plan's formulary, which is the list of drugs the plan covers. Formulary changes can happen from year to year, so make sure the medications you're taking will be covered next year, and that they're not moved to a higher tier which will affect your copay. If you see any changes that will increase your costs, you may want to select a different drug plan that covers all of your medications. If the formulary is incomplete, or you do not see your drug(s) on the list, contact the plan directly to learn more.

If you have not received an ANOC by the end of September, you should contact your Medicare Advantage Plan or Part D plan to request it. This notice can be very helpful in determining whether you should make any changes to your coverage during the fall open enrollment. Reading your ANOC can also prevent any surprises about your coverage in the new year.

Shopping, comparing and enrolling in a new Medicare Advantage or Part D plan during the open enrollment period can easily be done online at Medicare's Plan Finder Tool at Medicare.gov/find-a-plan.

Or, if you don't have a computer or Internet access, you can also call Medicare at 800-633-4227 and they can help you out over the phone. Your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides free Medicare counseling, is also a great resource to help you make any changes. To find a local SHIP counselor, visit ShipHelp.org or call 877-839-2675.

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

TOM PURCELL END OF LIFE CHANGES IN MODERN TIMES



A long time ago I watched a documentary about poet Emily Dickinson's life and writings.

One thing that I never forgot about that film is that she lived at a time when death was regrettably common — and therefore the subject of many of her poems.

"How are you doing?" is a polite way of introducing ourselves to each other now.

But as I learned in that documentary, this greeting during Dickinson's times meant, "Are you healthy and well and going to be with us tomorrow?"

Until modern times, dying commonly affected all age groups.

Women died during child birth. Children died from a variety of maladies.

The rich as well as the poor suffered tragedy and loss almost equally.

Haider Warraich, the doctor who wrote "Modern Death: How Medicine Has Changed End of Life," explained in an interview that in the 1800s in Boston or London people died mostly of three things: injuries, infections, or some type of nutritional deficiencies.

"Really," he said, "death was a very binary event — and it was very sudden.

"For example, before the advent of medical technology, if someone had a heart attack or if someone had some type of abnormal heart rhythm such as ventricular tachycardia, they would almost certainly die, in many cases instantaneously, sometimes even in their sleep."

Warraich said that dying today is no longer an "instantaneous flash event," but a "phase of our life."

New technologies enable people to live longer even if they have chronic diseases, so they are in and out of hospitals — as my dad was the past five months.

Today we've become disconnected from death, Warraich said.

We've moved death from our homes and communities to hospitals and nursing homes — where four of five Americans now die.

When my father's father died at only 34 in 1937, he died in his own bed of streptococcus, now easily cured with penicillin, and was laid out in the parlor of his house.

We'd hoped my father would meet his end peacefully in his own home.

After repeated visits to the hospital and skilled nursing facilities, we brought him home and hired our own care.

We celebrated his 89th birthday at his home a few weeks ago in epic fashion. A glorious event, it was attended by the large extended family he and my mother produced.

When his time finally came, he was back in the hospital, but he was surrounded by his family and his wife of nearly 66 years.

As advances in technology change the way we live and die we are becoming fearful of death — yet it's something every one of us is going to experience.

I'm honored to say that my sisters and mother and I fully embraced my dad's life and supported him with everything we had in his last painful months.

Knowing he's at peace now quells the hurt of watching him suffer so much for so long.

I believe he is in Heaven now, reunited with his parents, and I believe I will see him again. I will wait patiently for that grand reunion.

"How are you doing?" is the question of the moment.

I wish you the very best if you are in your end stage of life now or caring for someone you love who is — as you navigate the challenges of dying in modern times.

Tom Purcell, creator of the infotainment site *ThurbersTail.com*, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at *Tom@TomPurcell.com*.

SENIOR HAPPENINGS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...August Birthdays\*

Nancy Beckham, Karlene Englert, Juanita Fernandez, Jeanette Francis, Joseph Kiss, Jacquie Pergola, Pat Miranda, Jerry Burnett, Margaret Aroyan, Phyllis Burg, Beverly Clifton, Rosemary Morabito, Susan Poulsen, Joy Barry, Marcia Bent, Joan Spears, Ruth Torres, Jane Zamanzadeh. Helen Stapenhorst, Chandy Shair, Heidi Hartman, Erma Gutierrez, Margaret Switzer

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

SIERRA MADRE SENIOR CLUB Every Saturday from 11:30am-3:30 pm in the Hart Park House Senior Center. Join us as we celebrate birthdays, holidays and pay BINGO. Must be 50+ to join. For more information call Mark at 626-355-3951.

DOMINOES TRAIN GAME 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 11:00 am— 12:30 pm Hart Park House The object of the game is for a player to play all the tiles from their hand onto one or more trains, emanating from a central hub or "station". Call Lawren with questions that you may have.

PAINT PALS

Tuesday, 8/4 10:30 am—Hart Park House If you enjoy painting, sketching, water color, or making some other form of artistic creation please join our new program, PAINT PALS!!! Bring a project that you are working on to the HPH and enjoy some quality art time with other artists looking to paint with a new pal.

TEA AND TALK SENIOR BOOK CLUB Tuesday Aug. 11 and Aug 24 — 9:00 am Staff has launched a new book club series, Tea and Talk, which meets twice a month to discuss the fun, suspense, intrigue, love and so much more that each selection will have in store!

FIBER FRIENDS Tuesday, 8/16 —10:00 am If you enjoy knitting, crocheting, embroidery, needlepoint, bunka, huck, tatting or cross stitch then we have a group for you! Bring your current project, a nonalcoholic beverage, then sit and chat with likeminded fiber friends. We meet in the Hart Park House

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 or the Hart Park House..

HULA AND 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.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC - Tuesday, Aug 9 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Methodist Hospital will be holding a free to seniors clinic once a month in the Hart Park House. Walk in are welcome - no pre-registration required.

BINGO: Aug 18 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Come down to the HPH (Hart Park House) for a lively round of BINGO. Prizes await!

SENIOR CINEMA Wednesday, 8/17— Beinng at 1:00 pm Blue Hawaii PG 1h 42m After arriving back in Hawaii from the Army, Chad Gates (Elvis Presley) defies his parents' wishes for himn to work at the family business and instead goes to work as a tour guide at his girlfriend's agency.

OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

IT NEVER DAWNED ON MY UNTIL....



I must confess I am too poor to pay attention at this time in my life. I hope one day I will win the lottery and be able to afford to pay attention. But, of course, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage says that you can't win a lottery unless you play the lottery. Well, I don't play the lottery. Sigh!

I guess I will have to find another way to raise enough money to pay attention. Maybe if I could pay attention, I wouldn't get into the trouble that I get into. For many years when I would come home and walk through the front door, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would greet me with a kiss. And then she would say, "Good to see you." I never thought too much about that; I just accepted it as the norm and accept life as it comes; after all, I am too poor to pay attention.

One time several weeks ago, when I came home, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage greeted me with a kiss. Something seemed a little bit different. I just couldn't put my finger on it.

Since my heart attack, I have been trying to stay on a restricted diet. My diet is not the same as my wife's. My diet is that I don't eat anything I don't like. You can be sure that is not my wife's idea. Her idea of my diet is to eat what she prescribes for me. One thing restricted on my diet, at least from her perspective, is an Apple Fritter. I can never have too many of these, but my wife believes just thinking about an Apple Fritter is highly forbidden.

My idea is, and I don't want her to know this, but as long as I don't eat an Apple Fritter in the house, I'm obeying her restrictions. What I eat outside the house has nothing whatsoever to do with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. It is tough for someone like me not to eat something that is so heavenly delicious. I am quite confident that the angels in heaven enjoy an Apple Fritter on a regular basis. That being said, something strange began to unfold before me.

After greeting me with a kiss, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said something I didn't clearly hear. But, as I thought about it, it seemed like, "You didn't have an Apple Fritter today, did you?" I didn't pay attention to it because I didn't hear it exactly. That may not have been what she said, so I wasn't going to push the issue and get myself into trouble. I have learned long ago not to push a subject I didn't have to. I smiled and went to my chair with a hot cup of coffee. Nothing settles my mind better than a good strong Cup of Joe. To question The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage opens the door for a lot of hardship. And who can afford that at this time of life?

The next day as I came through the front door, she greeted me with a kiss, and walking away I heard her very distinctly say, "That smells like a very delicious Apple Fritter." I didn't know what to say or think at the time. Was she joking? Was I in trouble? Thinking about it, I asked myself how she would know if I had an Apple Fritter. Is she guessing or what?

A few minutes after I got my coffee I sat down and began to think a little bit. As you know, that always gets me into trouble. But in my thinking, I remembered I had an Apple Fritter before coming home. Now, how would she know that? I'm very careful to get a cup of coffee when I eat an Apple Fritter to hide any smell it might leave on me. So I need to work this out.

The next day I did not have an Apple Fritter the whole day. So when I came home and was greeted with a kiss, I heard nothing about an Apple Fritter from my wife. How does she know when I have and don't have one?

The next day I did have one. When I came home and was greeted with a kiss, as soon as I walked away, she said, "How was your Apple Fritter today?" I decided I needed to address the subject before it went any further. Looking at her, I said, "What makes you think I had an Apple Fritter the day?" With one of her smiles on her face, she replied, "Every time I kiss you, I can smell if you've had an Apple Fritter during the day." All I could do was just stare with no words coming out of my open mouth. "You may think," she said, "that you can get away with it. But not around me."

Now I have a situation I will not be able to clear up for a long time. I wonder if there is anything like industrial-strength peppermints? I was reminded of my favorite Bible verse. Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." If I rely on my "own understanding" I won't be able to afford the direction I will be going.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail *jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com*, website *www.jamesnsnyderministries.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



with that feeling particularly when I see myself in the morning mirror. "I'm so sorry for not having done better." Better at what I wonder? It doesn't make any difference "what" and the apology contains a promise that I will do my best to try and do better in the coming day. I think this is not altogether craziness. I have a picture in my mind of what it would "feel" like to have done or to be doing better. The picture is there but words and thinking keep getting in the way.

Lately my wife and I have been watching reruns of the television series "The Sopranos". If you have never watched the series I strongly recommend that you find the time to watch or re-watch it but why should you listen to me? Okay, so don't watch it and don't continue reading this article for all I care. But the real point is that I DO CARE. I want to write something meaningful that becomes a part of the better life I want for you and me. Actually everything I do is a part of this wish and to some extent I succeed. This is what I took from the particular episode of the Sopranos that I want to talk about.

To review the Sopranos involves the plight of a man, Tony Soprano, a mob boss who commits terrible crimes on a daily basis. At the same time his mother, his beloved uncle and his best friends are planning to kill him. Concurrently he is attempting to be a good father to his son and daughter and be a good husband to his wife although he breaks the fidelity bond every day. The magic of the series is that we, the audience, are made to care about Tony and his unacceptable life as he discusses the problem with his psychiatrist. The whole thing is made more poignant by the fact that the huge man that plays Tony, James Gandolfini, actually died unexpectedly in 2013. In the episode I am talking about, Tony's son, who is supposed to be about ten or 11,

## PUT THE LIGHTS ON SUCCESS

comes home from school very morose and depressed. He tells his dad that at School he learned that "Nitch" said that life had no point and that everything was meaningless and there was no point to living.

I absolutely loved that a TV series was attempting to discuss existentialism and Nietzsche and that it even mentioned Sartre and Camus. There was a time, there still is, when I pictured myself along with Sisyphus pushing that big rock up the mountain knowing that it is going to roll down back to where I started from and that I would just have to try and push it up again. That's who I see in the morning mirror, that man who has chosen to live another day and who will try again to push that rock up that mountain again and will fail every time. That is our life and if we choose to face another day of guaranteed failure one can realize the nobility and the beauty and the courage it takes to keep trying.

There will be no ultimate success and for that we apologize to ourselves and to everyone we meet. The importance of our individual lives can be seen as our courageous attempt every day to do better, to make the best out of the life we have and with our every breathe we are affirming the importance, the miracle of our own awareness and existence. Contained within this efforts is a truth, a truth I try my best to share in these articles which I began writing in 2008. All these articles say the same thing but the message is blotted out by the words. Do you get any sense of my message? With every breath we are affirming the importance of our own lives and we owe it to ourselves to focus, to pay attention and not be diverted by the problems that circulate around us every day. That same damn rock that never changes. It is a challenge to have consciousness, consciousness of our own inevitable death and consciousness of everything else. Knowing all that we know each of us chooses to battle on and have no reason to apologize no matter what Woody Allen says.

Yes, it's been a tough week for me. The neighbor across the street died and his funeral was incredibly sad. One of the things each of us can do is to at least notice all that we love about our life and do our best while we have the time to share that love. Have a good week and keep pushing.

## RICH & FAMOUS

### WHAT IF THERE WERE NO HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS?



Ahhh, summertime; the season filled with backyard barbecues, pool parties and other groovy social gatherings is winding down. Good friends, good food, good grog and good grief...the economy? No, no, no, lets not go there. I know the temptation to focus on these turbulent times may be too hard to resist.

Well, permit Famous and I to ride up on our handsome metaphorical steeds and attempt to save the day. A diversion is called for. As unofficial Sierra Madre Court Jesters we suggest you take your eyes off the depressing news of the day and shift to the deep, perplexing mysteries of life. I have the ticket! Hypothetical Questions. Bound to stimulate...something. Shall we? Let's commence:

Which three to five famous people, living or dead (or even imaginary) would you invite to your imaginary dinner party?

If you could choose to be born at another time, when would you be born? Why?

You can go back in time and uninvent something. What would you uninvent?

Stranded on a desert isle, you come across an abandoned backpack. What three items do you want to find in the backpack?

Your house is on fire. What material possessions do you save?

If you could instantly become a master of any one skill, what skill would you pick?

Stephen Spielberg is filming a blockbuster movie about you. He wants to know who you want to play you. Well...who?

If your girlfriend is a florist and chocolate didn't exist, what would you buy her to say you're sorry?

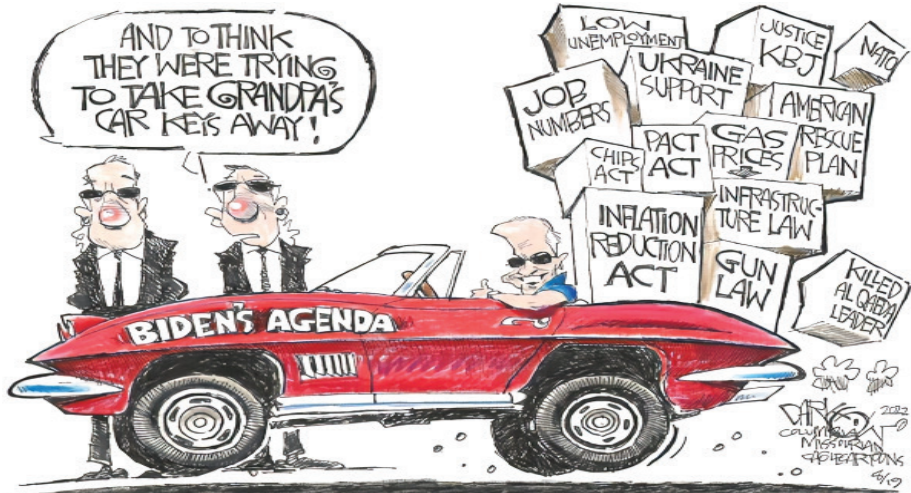
If you had to live and be a character in a TV show, comic book, or movie, which would you choose and what/who would you be?

If you could go back and change one decision, what would it be? (Careful lol)

And finally, the ultimate question: "What if everyone on earth jumped at once?"

If you pick up the paper early Saturday, August 20, my band, JJ Jukebox is performing at Nano Café tonight, August 20. 6:30-9:30. Drop in for dinner, dancing, drinking and general destabilizing. We'll go over some hypothetical questions during the break.

Jane Fuller is performing next Saturday night (August 27) at our favorite Mediterranean Restaurant, Corfu. Call the restaurant (626) 355-5993 for details. Good food (yummy and good for you) and great music. Finally, there are rumor that one of the best guitarists I have ever, ever heard is going to start teaching select students. He's local. I will try to find out more and report back to you next week. If you ever thought about playing the guitar, now is the time. His name is Eric Byak, he's local and I will keep you posted. Have a great week my friends.



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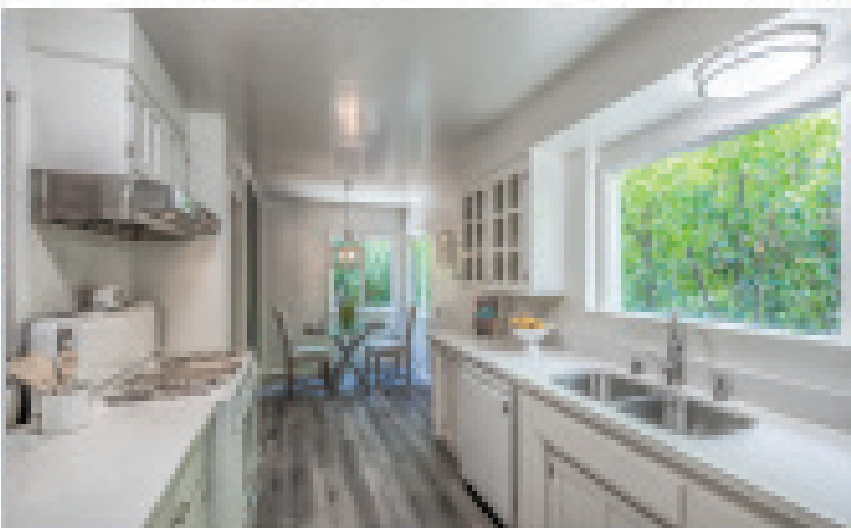
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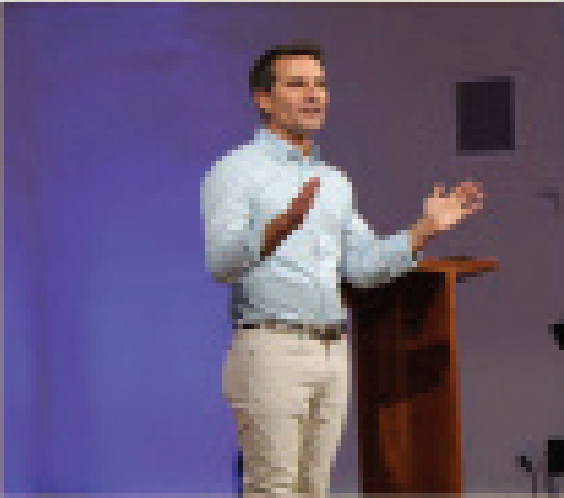
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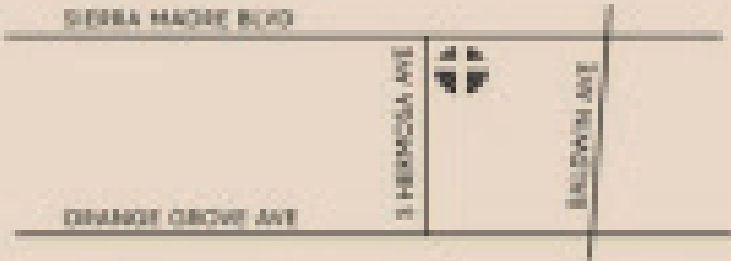
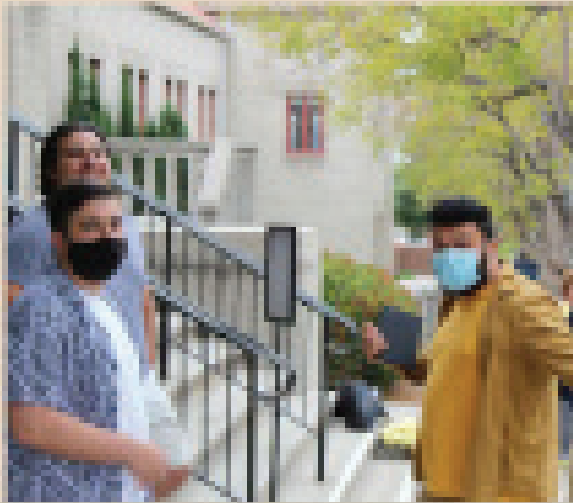


SERVICE TIMES

Sundays  
9a & 10:45a

or join us online  
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