

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre Arcadia Duarte Monrovia Pasadena Altadena South Pasadena San Marino

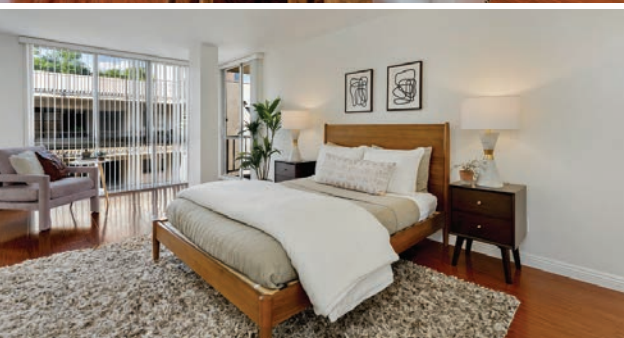
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022

VOLUME 16 NO. 41



the webb-martin group

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source: CoreLogic, Freddie Mac, Bankrate

"EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK YOU SEE SIGNS OF PROGRESS"



On Tuesday, Sierra Madre Mayor Gene Goss (right) delivered the 2022 State of the City Address with an opening statement that focused on the progress that has been made in Sierra Madre. He noted that "true progress" means "moving forward". His remarks were preceded by the presentation of the Colors by Eagle Scout Abbott Fluckey and Cub Scout Troop 110. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Bethany Christian School Choir (Pictured above), gave a beautiful and moving rendition of the National Anthem.

The Mayor was introduced by Mayor Pro Tem Edward Garcia. Mayor Goss who has served eight years on the council (twice as Mayor), gave an overview of Sierra Madre's accomplishments in the last year including the town's Finance Departments balanced budget, the \$9 million dollar surplus; the successful Public Works projects including the Solar Project, the Street Renovation Project and the Street Rehab projects; the Water Department, the Library and Community Services achievements and awards. He praised all city staff made a special recognition of City Manager Jose Reynoso for the outstanding job he has done since accepting the position. That acknowledgement brought applause from the audience. If you want to hear the speech in its entirety and learn of all the progress being made in the city, please go to the city's website: <https://www.cityofsierramadre.com>.



City Manager Jose Reynoso for the outstanding job he has done since accepting the position. That acknowledgement brought applause from the audience. If you want to hear the speech in its entirety and learn of all the progress being made in the city, please go to the city's website: <https://www.cityofsierramadre.com>.

MVNews/Photos courtesy City of Sierra Madre



SIERRA MADRE ELECTION FORUM

Meet The City Council Candidates

Colin Barr Edward Garcia Gene Goss Kris Lowe Christine Moran

LET'S TALK ABOUT: MEASURE HR

Measure HR

Saturday, October 15, 2022

4:00 pm

CITY HALL—COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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ELECTION COVERAGE



On November 8, 2022, voters in Sierra Madre will go to the polls and select three people from a field of five to sit on the City Council. They will also vote on Measure HR (Hillside Residential) a citizens initiative to stop The Meadows at Bailey Canyon project. The Mountain Views News will provide our readers with comprehensive coverage of this election. Each week, as we have done in the past, we will profile the candidates and give each of the candidates the opportunity to introduce themselves to our readers by answering the following questions:

1. Why are you running for City Council?

2. What are you going to do for Sierra Madre?

3. How do you plan on accomplishing your goals?

(All candidates are being asked to answer the same questions and their answers will be published unedited.)

This paper will also review the pros and cons of Measure HR, and review the county and statewide measures and candidates for the State Assembly and Senate and the US House of Representatives and US Senate..

The schedule will be as follows:

October 1, 2022
October 8, 2022
October 15, 2022
October 22, 2022
October 29, 2022

Candidates Kris Lowe, Christine Moran and Colin Bar
Candidates Gene Goss and Edward Garcia
Ballot Arguments Pro and Con - Measure HR
County and Statewide Ballot Measures
State and National Offices

Our reporting on this election will be as fair and objective as possible. However, please keep in mind that our columnists are always free to share their opinions. Their opinions are their opinions and may or may not reflect the position of the paper. This is true in all things, not just this election.

Susan Henderson, Publisher and Editor

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE
EDWARD GARCIA

Website: EdwardGarciaForSierraMadre.com

Email: EdwardGarciaForCouncil@gmail.com

Facebook: [Edward T. Garcia for Sierra Madre City Council](https://www.facebook.com/EdwardT.GarciaforSierraMadreCityCouncil)

It has been my privilege to serve on the Sierra Madre City Council since December of 2020 and as your current Mayor Pro Tem and I would be honored to be reelected to the Council.



Last election I stated, "As your councilmember, I will make certain we have a responsible budget, continue reductions of our pension liability, while maintaining the services our community demands." I am happy to say that I, along with my colleagues on the City Council, followed through with that commitment.

When considering running for reelection, I asked myself, "Is Sierra Madre in a better place since I was elected in 2020, and if the answer is yes, did I contribute to this progress?" I can confidently answer yes to those questions. The accomplishments achieved by our current council in less than two years, during a global pandemic, should be a point of pride for the entire community. Please read my ballot statement for a partial list of accomplishments.

1. I am running for city council because I am passionate about serving my community. I am committed to making Sierra Madre continue to be a wonderful place to live for families and individuals. I believe my background in Economics and Finance is an asset to the city and, if reelected, I will continue to make decisions based on fiscal responsibility balanced with maintaining the way of life we have come to enjoy in Sierra Madre.

2. As stated above, I will make certain we continue to require our departments justify all expenditures in our budget, continue to maintain our city's infrastructure, and continue to have a safe community with short emergency response times. I will also continue to engage with and listen to the citizens of our town.

3. I have a proven record of accomplishing goals within the short time I have already been on the council. I have been told by my colleagues that my economic and financial perspective on issues have aided in our discussion regarding policy decisions. I know a broad base of constituents due to my active multi-generational Sierra Madre family, my various roles in youth sports, scouting, commissions, and my time with the Sierra Madre Community Foundation and I still actively engage with these groups regarding our city.

I have accomplished much during my time on your City Council, but there is still much work to be done!

I respectfully ask for your vote on November 8th.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE
GENE GOSS

If you've ever watched children run out on Heasley Field in their uniforms, or enjoyed live music in Memorial Park, or waved at our Firefighters as their shiny fire trucks pass by in the 4th of July Parade, then you know why I am running for City Council. Sierra Madre is a very special place. My wife and I have lived here for 26 years. We've raised our son here. I am 100% committed to preserving and enhancing the magic of Sierra Madre for our citizens.

Eight years ago, the City was in significant debt and near bankruptcy. Some advocated closing our police department. Our water system suffered 31% loss through leaking water mains. Community trust in the competence of our government was declining. My newly elected city council colleagues and I turned it around. Today we enjoy a \$9 million reserve, our PERS pension liability is 85% paid up (putting us in the top 10% of cities in the state for pension financial strength), and our police department is fully funded. Water system losses have been reduced to 11% and falling. Additionally, we finally secured \$10 million from the state to renovate and expand our treasured local library.

My Priorities

Finances

I will continue to exercise good financial stewardship. I'll continue to insist that all expenses be justified each time a budget is proposed, not just automatically approved. I will continue our drive to resolve the burden of future pension liabilities.

Public safety

I will support our police and fire departments with the funding necessary to keep medical and emergency response times low and public safety service quality high.

Infrastructure

I will prioritize the funding of our water main replacement program to reduce leaking mains across the city. I will push for increased funding to replace degraded sidewalks, curbs and streets. Finally, I will work to ensure that the renovation of the new Police Department building, and library are done on time and under budget.

I am honored to have the endorsement of all four of my council colleagues for reelection. Working with my colleagues, I will make sure that Sierra Madre remains the community we love.

I respectfully ask for your vote on November 8th.

www.geneforsiammadre.com

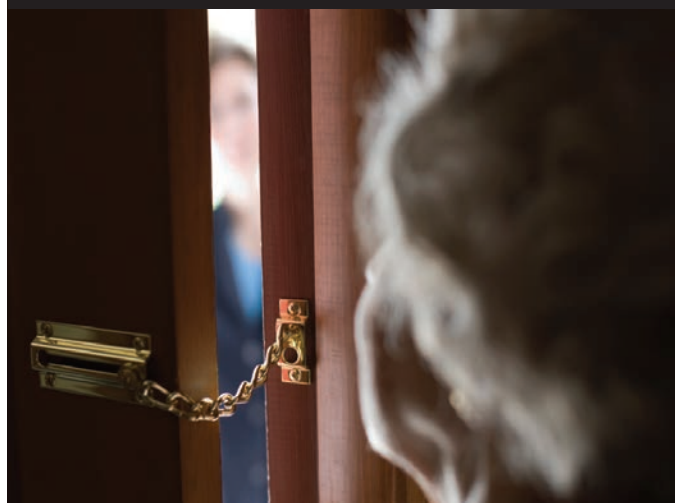
ggoss2012@yahoo.com



SIERRA MADRE

Neighbors for Fairness

Signature Gatherers Are Knocking AGAIN

Here's what they
don't tell you

when they try to get you to sign
the referendum...

- Signing will **cancel the new public park** planned for Sierra Madre
- Signing will **eliminate over \$2 Million** investments in our libraries, parks, schools and traffic improvements
- Signing could **bombard our neighborhood with 68 mansions** larger than nearly all existing homes

It's time to move on. Don't Sign.

Ad paid for by No on Measure HR, Sierra Madre Neighbors for Fairness, a Coalition of Local Residents, Taxpayers, and Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center; Committee major funding from New Urban West

MEASURE HR - THE BETTER ALTERNATIVE

Measure HR rezones the Monastery property from Institutional to Hillside Residential. Hillside zoning's biggest benefit is that it is designed to prevent overdevelopment such as "The Meadows at Bailey Canyon" tract housing plan, which calls for building 42 mostly two-story, multimillion dollar houses side by side, ten feet apart on small lots. That subdivision may squeak through because city officials have rushed to approve it. But if Measure HR passes, it will at least prevent the Monastery's owners from selling the remaining parcel and allowing a developer to pack another 82 tract houses onto that property.

Measure HR's Hillside zoning requires new houses to be built on a minimum of two acres, so, at most, a developer could build 7 houses on the land where the developer proposes to build 42 houses.

Why is voting YES on Measure HR so important? In addition to stopping both residential and institutional overdevelopment, it does a lot of important things for our community and, contrary to what you may have heard, for the Retreat Center. Most importantly, it stops high-density development in a very high-severity fire zone, which might prevent a wildfire from taking out whole neighborhoods on the south and west sides. Also, Measure HR:

- Protects more than 100 mature trees
- Allows Mater Dolorosa to continue their mission and expand beyond their current size
- Allows the Passionists to sell all of their land to a developer to build houses on 2-acre lots or to a land conservancy
- Follows the General Plan and municipal code unlike the Specific Plan created by "The Meadows" housing project developer
- Stops the possibility of a development of a 270,000 square foot institution on the upper 18 acres of the property
- Stops the possibility of development of an additional 82 houses on the upper 18 acres of property
- Reduces environmental footprint to substantially reduce water use and to stop doubling of traffic in the neighborhood.

If you've seen or heard the disinformation that's been spread around about Measure HR by the "Meadows at Bailey Canyon" developer, you might think that the initiative goes against everything good and fair and decent in our community. Nothing could be further from the truth. For starters, proponents of Measure HR support the rights of property owners. Hundreds of property owners—families with houses surrounding the Monastery property—deserve a fair shake. They're the ones who are going to be most affected by any development on that property-- during construction and long after



the developer has finished up and left town. Also, the intent of Measure HR is to make sure any developer of the Monastery property doesn't get special privileges and abides by the law. Under the current "Specific Plan" that the City Council just approved, the developer can operate virtually unrestrained. In fact, their plans for "The Meadows at Bailey Canyon" subdivision call for building houses that are up to 80% larger for a given lot size than Sierra Madre's General Plan and Municipal Code allow. The bottom line is, other property owners (you and me,) can't do anything of the sort on our property, and there's no reason why anyone should be entitled to special privileges-- least of all an out-of-town developer. Second, ads and flyers paid for by the developer suggest that if Measure HR passes, the Passionists will be prevented from continuing their mission. This is patently false. The Passionists are protected by federal law that protects all religious institutions from discrimination. Under Measure HR, there will be no restrictions on the Passionists' mission. In addition, Section 17.60.030 (A) of our municipal code clearly states, that "Churches, temples and other places of worship" are uses that are permitted in basically all zoning classifications, including the Hillside Management Zone. The purpose of this is to ensure that there is no discrimination against the free practice of religion in Sierra Madre. The Sierra Madre Municipal Codes have clearly been drafted not to run afoul of existing federal and state laws, including the Religious Land Use and Institutional Persons Act ("RLUIPA"). Any conclusion that the Initiative prohibits the right of a religious organization to exercise its religious freedoms is blatantly incorrect. Just like everybody else in town, they will need a building permit if they want to make additions or build new buildings—that's all. There is no reason on Earth that the city of Sierra Madre would not grant them that permit.

Due to the City Council's failure to assert leadership and protect Sierra Madre's long-term interests and quality of life, Measure HR is the best option. Otherwise, a slew of cookie-cutter houses will be built on that property—big houses ten feet apart and fifteen feet from the street, all crammed together in a Very-High-Severity Fire Zone. IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

Sierra Madre can do better than this! Vote YES on Measure HR.

SAVE SIERRA MADRE FROM OVERDEVELOPMENT

We have reached another critical point in our fight to stop the proposed 'Destroyed Meadows at Bailey Canyon' housing project at the monastery property.

Signatures of 1300 registered voters put MEASURE HR on the November ballot, to restrict development on the Monastery property by rezoning it to Hillside Management. It is still critical that you Vote Yes on that measure

But the City Council, in an attempt to invalidate the PEOPLE'S decision at the ballot box, rushed through their approval of this project before giving Sierra Madre residents the right to vote in November on Measure HR. In essence what they've done is:

Deny your right to be heard!

To protect that right we have filed a petition for a referendum. With enough signatures on this NEW PETITION within 30 days, the City's approval will not go into effect until the citizens decide whether it should or not, at a later election. It will give us time to make sure that your vote on Measure HR will count.

We need your signature to allow the Citizens of Sierra Madre their constitutional right to vote on Measure HR and to stop overdevelopment in our Village of the Foothills.



Contact sierramadrepetition@gmail.com for any questions and/or to have someone bring you a petition to sign.

We will be in Kersting Court on Saturday October 15 from 9 - 11 with petitions for you to sign and from 3 - 4 on Saturday, October 15 at City Hall before the Forum to discuss the City Council Candidates and Measure HR. That information Forum will begin at 4.

We need your help for the protection of Sierra Madre

Please SIGN THE PETITION FOR THE REFERENDUM!



SIERRA MADRE Neighbors for Fairness

HEY MEASURE HR, YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG!

"Allows Mater Dolorosa to continue their mission and expand beyond their current size" – Stop Housing Project website.

If you are trying to allow the Passionists to continue their operations "without expansion," as Measure HR actually says, you're doing it wrong.

"We have worked hard to prevent over-development and mansionization" – Preserve Sierra Madre website. If you are trying to stop mansionization by allowing a bunch of 7,300 sq. ft. mansions, you're doing it wrong.

"Allows the Passionists to sell all the land and build houses" – Stop Housing Project email. If you are trying to stop a housing project by rezoning even more property to residential, you're doing it wrong.

"We have all seen firsthand, in Arcadia, what can happen to neighborhoods under a development free-for-all." – Preserve Sierra Madre website. If you are trying to prevent overdevelopment and mansionization by rezoning an entire property to a residential zone with little city oversight, you're doing it wrong.

"Promotes Consistent and Fair Zoning" – Stop Housing Project website. If you are trying to promote consistent and fair zoning by shoeorning an Institutional development into a non-conforming residential zone, you're doing it wrong.

"We seek to have a constructive relationship with members of the City Council and with the City Manager and his staff" – Preserve Sierra Madre website. If you are trying to have a constructive relationship with

City Hall while unfairly attacking and undermining those people, you're doing it wrong.

"Stops the possibility of a development of a 270,000 square foot institution on the upper 18 acres of the property" – Protect Sierra Madre email. If you are trying to protect the Institutional religious property rights of the Passionists by taking away their Institutional property rights, you're doing it wrong.

"We have worked hard ... to protect our open spaces" – Preserve Sierra Madre website. If you are trying to protect open spaces by opposing 40 acres placed in conservancy, you're doing it wrong.

"Stops over-development of tract housing" – Stop Housing Project email. If you are trying to stop tract housing by taking away control from the City Council and giving it to the state, you're doing it wrong.

"They are free to use their property for any religious purpose they chose" – Stop Housing Project website. If you are trying to protect the Passionists' religious rights by prohibiting "significant physical alteration or change in use," as Measure HR says, you're doing it wrong

"Open Space Protected" – Stop Housing Project website. If you are trying to protect open space by opposing a three acre public park, you're doing it wrong.

It is up to the voters to do things the right way and protect Sierra Madre and the Passionists by Voting NO on HR.

-- News | Sierra Madre Neighbors for Fairness news@sierramadreneighborsforfairness.org SierraMadreNeighborsforFairness.org

HERE ARE 12 REASONS YOU SHOULD VOTE NO ON MEASURE HR

- 1) Protect religious rights. HR creates a religious rights violation that discriminates against a religious organization. It takes away Mater Dolorosa's right to "expansion, significant physical alteration, or use change."
- 2) Preserve Property Rights. HR takes away the right of an individual property owner to apply to the City for a change in property use.
- 3) Stop the building of mansions. HR won't stop housing from being built. It creates the possibility of 6500 square foot houses or larger if an ADU is added, on 34 acres of property, not only the 17 acres claimed by the framers of the initiative.
- 4) HR won't save water. The proponents of the initiative have ignored the fact that the larger homes and more landscaping will use as much or more water as the proposed homes. They also will have no obligation to offset water usage like the Meadows project.
- 5) HR gives the City less control over what can be built. After Mater Dolorosa applied to the City for a zone change, the City negotiated to assure the project would be the best it could be for the City. This resulted in the Specific Plan. Under State law, the City is mostly limited to objective building standards for a new subdivision in the HR zone.
- 6) HR won't save 100 trees. Large mansions will need the land to be cleared to accommodate the building pad, and to build roads for access. The Hillside Residential ordinance prohibits invasive trees such as the Chinese Elms currently on the property. Some trees might be saved, but not all 100, and there is no provision to replace trees except for the protected oaks.
- 7) HR won't preserve the "Meadow". There will be homes built on the property in the "Meadow". The

meadow (formerly known as the Fiesta Parking Lot) will be gone either way.

8) HR does not "protect" wildlife habitats. Wildlife won't be displaced with any development. Wildlife adapt to the surroundings.

9) HR creates legal risk for the City in terms of Religious Rights Violations which could cost the city millions.

10) HR will not stop an increase in traffic. Building homes will still increase traffic on local streets and likely mean widening Carter Ave.

11) HR means the city loses negotiated concessions. The City makes more money off of the 68 homes under HR. That is a counter-argument when the proponents say the City only supports the Meadows project because of the property taxes. Of course, the Meadows project brings in millions of dollars of value in other areas. The City won many concessions from the developer which will be lost including a 3-acre park worth millions, 40 hillside acres placed in a conservancy, almost \$1 million for net-zero water offsets, and \$250,000 for public safety infrastructure

12) A NO VOTE on HR will Preserve, Protect and Save the Passionists' right to legally use their property as decided by the laws and ordinances of the city, it will stop the building of mansions, and preserve the rights of all homeowners.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As a resident of the West Carter neighborhood in Sierra Madre, I am writing to the citizens of our city asking you to please get involved and learn about the truth and the factual information that is available about the Monastery project. The tragic impact it will have on the north west section of our city will be significant. As usual with unscrupulous developers they are threatening lawsuit, don't be dismayed. We are only trying to ensure that the development, whatever development, is done under the same laws and ordinances that we all had to comply with (when we built or re-modeled our own properties). That is not to their advantage or purpose, so they threaten the lawsuit. Don't believe it is a done deal, it is not. We as a community can easily vote by signing the referendum to overturn the city Council approval of the specific plan. In November we can vote to place the rezoning of the monastery under the hillsides ordinance which was the intention of our city government some 30 years ago. The development of the property is inevitable. But the pain, suffering and inconvenience should be born by those who will benefit from that development, not the community that surrounds it.

Scott Oliver, Sierra Madre

WHO SHOULD DECIDE

Measure HR and all of the surrounding issues are overwhelming to me. The two citizen groups and their weekly arguing doesn't help. Likely there are some valid points but like most voters, I don't have the time and in some cases ability to fully research and comprehend all the underlying facts these points are based on. The petition and general voting process through propositions gave us the \$100 billion slow speed rail from Bakersfield to Merced, increased retailer profits due to now charging us for plastic bags we thought we were banning, and theoretically happier pigs until they are turned into now \$7 per pound bacon. The citizens signed, voted and approved these issues without fully understanding what the ramifications would be.

We are a government of representative democracy. Our elected Sierra Madre officials have rigorously studied this issue. I trust them to have the best interests of the city in mind. They voted to allow the monastery by development, and we should honor that knowledge-based decision by voting against measure HR. The people should not overturn the judgment of their representatives when the issue is this complex and the council has worked hard to make its non-partisan recommendation in the best interests of our city. This is the best way to allow democracy to function properly. Let elected officials do their jobs and vote them out if you don't like the way they do them.

Tim Blackman Sierra Madre

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REMEMBRANCES

HARRIET HAAKE PLUNKETT

Mom passed away a few days short of her 92nd birthday at the age of 91 in SanMarino. She was born in Los Angeles to Mildred and Harry Haake. She attended Polytechnic and graduated from Westridge School in Pasadena then graduated from The University of Colorado Boulder.

At the early age of 12 Mom became a member San Marino Community Church and continued being an active member until her passing. Mom was President of the Seeder and Weeders Garden Club, Co-Chair of the annual Pasadena Guild of Children Hospital Treasures and Trivia sale and perpetual Linen section matriarch. Member of the Pasadena Town Club and assisted with the annual Christmas holiday decorating.

But, most of all Mom truly loved her family, home, and garden.

She will be missed by her daughter and son-in-law Patricia and Rudy Colonello, son William Plunkett, grandson Connor Plunkett, and the family dog Lacy. A private family service was held. Memorial



Donations may be made to The Pasadena Guild of Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. P.O. Box 51101 Pasadena, CA 91115

From the family of Harriet Haake Plunkett

WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

“Bookworms aren’t people who love to read. They are people who treat books as treasures”

“Bookworm Problem #1: Laughing out loud while reading a book in a public place and getting funny looks from the other people.”

“Bookworm Problem #2: Having a sleep disorder called ‘Just one more chapter.’”



“Bookworm Problem #3: Getting absolutely and undeniably attached to book characters where we laugh and cry with them, and physically miss them when we finish the book.”

We could go on and on waxing rhapsodic about bookworms, especially this particularly charming one languishing on a bale of hay outside the library. The Bookworm Caterpillar informs us in this excellent photo by Leah Davis, that “On the first day he read... Blue Ridge Babies 1, 2, 3: A Counting Book by Laura Sperry Gardner; Illustrations by Stephanie Fizer Coleman.”

I thought I’d take a look at the book to see what it was about, just in case there were any little people in my life who needed a book about counting. Well! I think I want this for myself! Here’s what it’s about:

“Explore the Blue Ridge Mountains, a part of the Appalachian range that teems with fascinating plant and wildlife, through the memorable frame of the engaging folk song “Over in the Meadow.” Amongst budding dogwood trees, crooked creeks, mountains fading to heaven, and other stunning settings, animal mothers and their young all play a part in the great wide wilderness. Count the babies on every page: one fawn hides while two bear cubs forage, three cardinal fledglings fly and four owlets hoot, all the way up to ten salamander efts and one last expansive view of a unique American region.”

The Bookworm Caterpillar had another huge reason for choosing a counting book to start off his sojourn in front of our library. As shown on the front page of the October 1st issue of the Mountain Views News, Assemblymember, Chris Holden, presided over a Library Grant Ceremony and presented a check for \$10 million dollars for improvements and repairs to the Sierra Madre Library. The library, built in 1955, has needed some help for quite a long time. Scheduled improvements include seismic concerns and increased space consisting of an outdoor community area. The Bookworm Caterpillar is happily counting his blessings, all ten million of them.

Our Library is one of Sierra Madre’s most wonderful assets, filled with treasures. When John and I and our family came to live in Sierra Madre in 1967, one of the first things we did was go to the library. We checked out all the books possible, Leah and I, every few days, read them all then went back for more. As Leah was only 12 at the time, she was unjustly confined to the Children’s Room. Being far more adult than many adults, she had a serious and lengthy conversation with Mary Tumilty, the Librarian at that time, and a gracious and knowledgeable Librarian she was, too, a woman of great wit and dry, acerbic humor. When Leah explained that she wanted to read all the Perry Mason mysteries, Ms. Tumilty had no trouble at all giving her an adult card. Yes, friends and neighbors, I’ve told this story before, but the library was the center of our life for so many years, before the days of Kindle and quick delivery from Amazon.

We never missed a used book sale and when John moved to heaven and the house on Alegria had to go to someone else, I packed up about 500 books and some of the most delightful people from the library came and took them back there. In my mind’s eye, I see other mother-daughter duos pulling treasures from the used book sale tables and stashing bags full of books in the truck of their car. Updating our library is the best thing possible to do with ten million dollars.

More and more scarecrows are popping up around town and, hopefully, the competition with be fierce and the Creative Arts Group judges are going to be up deliberating for days on which entry deserves the prize.

AND, the Sierra Madre Civic Club wants to make the Downtown Halloween Art Event a huge success. This new version is so much better than the old “poster paint on the windows” method, which was, to say the very least...messy! Now you draw or paint your art on a paper canvas, and it goes up in the windows downtown and everyone is happy!!

The “Blue Ridge Babies Counting Book” made me want to share my latest reading adventure with you: “Grey Mountain” by John Grisham. There aren’t any adorable animals in this book, just murder, intrigue and evil-doing in the Appalachian Mountain Range. Here’s the synopsis:

“The year is 2008 and Samantha Kofer’s career at a huge Wall Street law firm is on the fast track—until the recession hits and she is downsized, furloughed, and escorted out of the building. Samantha, though, is offered an opportunity to work at a legal aid clinic for one year without pay, all for a slim chance of getting rehired.

In a matter of days Samantha moves from Manhattan to Brady, Virginia, population 2,200, in the heart of Appalachia, a part of the world she has only read about. Samantha’s new job takes her into the murky and dangerous world of coal mining, where laws are often broken, communities are divided, and the land itself is under attack. But some of the locals aren’t so thrilled to have a big-city lawyer in town, and within weeks Samantha is engulfed in litigation that turns deadly. Because like most small towns, Brady harbors big secrets that some will kill to conceal.”

I’ve definitely got Bookworm Problem #2 with this one!! Highly recommend!!

Watch for scarecrows. Some of them are scary. They’ll creep up on you... Be afraid! Be very afraid!

*My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis
Where you’ll find “Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope”
And “A Tablespoon of Love, A Tablespoon of Laughter”
Both of these books are stuffed with hope and a good recipe or two.*

*All five of the Emma Gainsworth pumpkin adventures are available on Amazon.com
They’re guaranteed to make you laugh and want to see what happens to Emma next.*



SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

The following represents a summary report of some of the major incidents handled by the Sierra Madre Police Department during this period. This list is not intended to be considered exclusive or all-inclusive.

Tuesday, September 20
Hit and Run Traffic Collision with Pedestrians Involved

At approximately 7 AM, officers responded to the intersection of Sierra Madre Blvd and Lima St. for reports of a hit and run traffic collision. Upon arrival, officers discovered two elderly males suffering from moderate injuries, in the crosswalk of the intersection. According to witness statements, a red 4 door sedan was seen driving through the intersection, striking the pedestrians, and continue driving eastbound on Sierra Madre Blvd. The two victims were transported to a local hospital by Sierra Madre Fire Department Paramedics. Due to the swift investigation by our patrol officers, as well as helpful surveillance footage from local businesses, our detectives were able to locate the vehicle and subsequently locate the driver. A 62 year old female was arrested for the incident, and the case has been forwarded to the District Attorney’s office for filing considerations.

Tuesday, September 20
Theft from Motor Vehicle
At approximately 3 PM, officers took a theft from motor vehicle report. The reporting party stated that unknown suspect(s) stole various camera equipment from their vehicle. There is no suspect information at this time. The Detective Bureau is following up on this incident.

Tuesday, September 20
Theft from Motor Vehicle
At approximately 3 PM, officers took a theft from motor vehicle report. The reporting party stated that unknown suspect(s) stole various camera equipment from their vehicle. There is no suspect information at this time. The Detective Bureau is following up on this incident.

Wednesday, September 28
Theft
At approximately 10 PM, officers responded to reports of a theft in the 100 block of W Highland Ave. The reporting party stated that 2 bicycles were stolen from the porch of their home, sometime during the day. Officers checked the area and were unable to locate the suspects. The Detective Bureau is following up on this incident.



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<https://sierramadrekiwanis.com/>

Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 60s
Mon	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 60s
Tues	Sunny	Hi	90s	Lows 60s
Wed	Sunny	Hi	90s	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

October 11, 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 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 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.

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see rental page on our website

GFWCSierraMadreWomansClub.org

Explore Opportunities & Membership with Us
[SierraMadreWomansClub](https://www.facebook.com/SierraMadreWomansClub) 355-4379



This week at the
Sierra Madre
Public Library

October 10—15

Monday

Library Closed for Holiday—No Services

Tuesday

Parent-Child Workshop—In-person at 10:00am

Wednesday

Sewing Machine Basics—In-person at 2:00pm

Teen Snackchat—In-person at 4:00pm

Thursday

Baby Rhyme Time at Memorial Park—Outdoors
at 9:00am. Call 626-355-7186 to register

Tails & Tales—In-person at 3:30pm

Saturday

3D Printing Basics—In-person at 11:00am

Sewing Machine Basics—In-person at 2:00pm

Read, Discover, Connect
@Sierra Madre Public Library



COMMISSIONER
VACANCIES

WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE CITY
BUT NOT SURE HOW?
APPLY TO JOIN A COMMISSION!

The City is expected to have vacancies on our commissions soon so you can get a head start

by applying now.

Applications and more information can be found here:
cityofsierramadre.com/cityhall/commissions

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.

Interested? Go To: <https://www.cityofsierramadre.com/cityhall/commissions>

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CLOSED SUNDAYS - JUNE THROUGH DECEMBER

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As we head into the holiday season,
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Cleaning Services**

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Sierra Madre CA 91024

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Saturday.....9am-1pm
Sunday.....Closed



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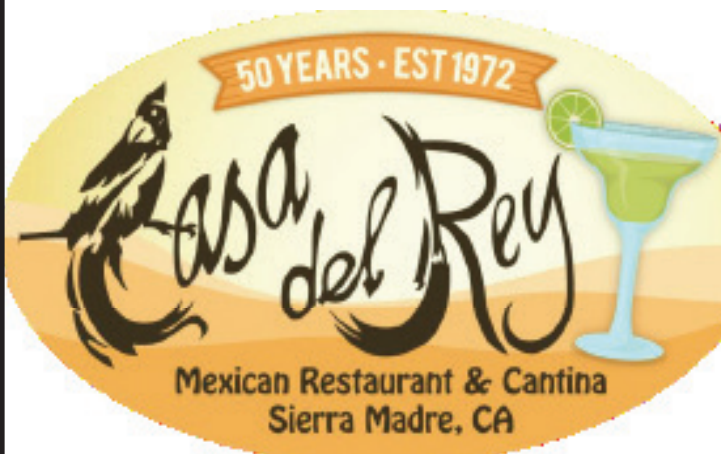
Monday-Friday.....9am-6pm
Saturday.....9am-5pm
Sunday.....Closed



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SIERRA MADRE, CA 91024
(626)355-6060

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METHODIST
CHURCH

Sunday worship 9:30 a.m.

FREE CONCERT
Saturday, October 15th
5 - 8 pm - Fellowship Hall

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Sierra Madre, CA 91024
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San Marino Upcoming Events & Programming

City Manager Update
The City Council took action yesterday to place City Manager Marlowe on administrative leave and to appoint Fire Chief Mario Rueda as the Acting City Manager.
Acting City Manager Rueda commented, “It is my honor and privilege to serve in this assignment, and I am appreciative of City Council’s confidence in me to lead this organization. I am also proud that they have confidence in each of our employees who will continue to provide premium service to residents during this transition.”
Book Character Pumpkin Decorating Contest (All ages)
Saturdays through Sunday, October 23
Our spookiest literary pumpkin creations are back! Kids, teens, and adults are invited to submit a decorated pumpkin inspired by a book character to win a gift card to Vroman’s. Winners will be announced on Monday, October 31. Please visit CityofSanMarino.org/Pumpkin for more details and rules.

Fall-in’ In Love Wreath Making Class
Today from 9 AM – 12 PM, Barth Community Room
Cost: R: \$25 / NR: \$29
Create a wreath to welcome fall! This outdoor wreath making class will send each guest home with a beautiful, handmade wreath that’s ready to be hung. No experience is needed at this event, as it will be led by a recreation professional. This class is designed for ages 16+ and registration is required. Reserve your spot by October 6.

Brain Aerobics & Lip Reading
Monday, October 10 and Tuesday, October 11 from 9:30 – 11:30 AM, Barth Community Room
This popular class led by Francine Katz (MA, SLP, & CCC) concentrates on lip reading and memory. She provides seniors a fun way to fight the common problems of diminished hearing and memory as people age. Registration is not required, but plan to attend regularly.

Huntington Nurses Health Screening
Wednesday, October 12 from 10:00 – 11:30 AM, Barth Community Room
The Huntington Nurses offer free blood pressure and glucose screenings. Please plan to fast 2 hours prior to having glucose checked. These blood pressure and glucose evaluations can lead to prevention and early detection of the “silent killer” diseases such as hypertension, heart disease, and diabetes. Health screenings will be held every second Wednesday of the month. Registration is not required.

Chinese Club – Chinese Knotting
Thursday, October 13 at 10:30 AM, Barth Community Room
In the spirit of cultural exchange and appreciation of diversity, educational development, and community service, the Chinese Club of San Marino holds monthly lectures and workshops. Join us this month for a fun and informative lesson on Chinese knotting.
Halloween Trunk or Treat & Movie Night
Friday, October 28 from 6 – 10 PM, Lacy Park
Cost: Pre-sale: R: \$5 / NR: \$10
Gate Price: R / NR: \$15
Join your friends, neighbors, and family for a spooktacular time! There will be trunk or treating, food trucks, music, games, crafts, costume contests, and more! Then, when the ghouls go to sleep, a special screening of Hotel Transylvania will be shown on the lawn. Pre-order your wristbands between October 3 - 27 online. Pre-sale wristbands must be picked up at the Stoneman Building (1560 Pasqualito Drive) by October 28 at 11 AM. Wristbands will also be sold at Lacy Park on the day of the event. Wristband sales are non-refundable.

Fire Department
On October 4, the San Marino Fire Department placed into service a new 2021 Dodge Ram Rescue Ambulance as RA91. Originally approved for purchase in September, the Dodge RA was delayed due to supply chain issues as well as two recalls resolved by Dodge. The department will hold a dedication ceremony in November.
Meetings
Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, October 10 at 6 PM; Teleconference and Barth Room at Crowell Public Library
City Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 12 at 6:00 PM; Teleconference and Barth Room at Crowell Public Library
Public Safety Commission Meeting
Monday, October 17 at 6 PM; Teleconference and Barth Room at Crowell Public Library

Five Acres Names Chairs for 135th Birthday Gala



Five Acres, an Altadena-based children’s foster care agency, is pleased to announce that long-time supporters, Nicole Rasic and Trish Gonzales, will once again co-chair Five Acres 2023 fundraising gala. Inspired by the agency’s 135th birthday celebration, next year’s gala is sure to be a huge bash.

As one of its two largest fundraising events of the year, next year’s gala will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2023. The much-anticipated birthday celebration will take place outdoors at a historic Pasadena residence built in 1897 and designed by Frederick Roehrig, American architect of landmark building Hotel Green, once the home of the Tournament of Roses and the Valley Hunt Club. Castle Green, which was built as an annex to Hotel Green, and the Andrew McNally House in Altadena were also designed by Roehrig.

Rasic and Gonzales are, again, excited to be leading the gala committee now that they have a gala under their belt. Rasic and Gonzales met years ago through a mutual friend. Nicole invited Trish to be her guest at Five Acres’ gala and the rest is history. “We are definitely in good creative hands with Nicole and Trish in planning this exciting milestone birthday celebration,” said Jennifer Berger, Five Acres chief advancement officer. “We are so proud of our legacy to bring safety, nurture well-being, and provide loving, permanent families to children in foster care.”

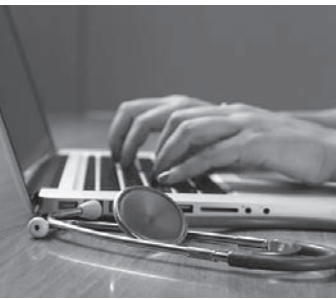
Since 1888, Five Acres has protected the most vulnerable members of the community: children.

Serving more than 7,000 children and family members annually across five counties, Five Acres now strives for permanency—a permanent, loving home—for all children in their care.

For more event information and updates, visit: 5acres.org. For sponsorship opportunities, call Brandon Ito, associate director of development, at 626-390-8453 or email bito@5acres.org.

Since 1888, Five Acres has protected the most vulnerable members of our community: children. Serving more than 7,000 children and family members annually across five counties, Five Acres now strives for permanency—a permanent, loving home—for all children in their care. The three pillars of safety, well-being and permanency provide the framework for its programs and guide the steps as the agency develops even more effective means of caring for children and families in crisis.

Medicare Resource Fair at the Senior Center



A free Medicare resource fair Wednesday, Oct. 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St., will help clarify health care plan options and upcoming changes for 2023 for Medicare, the federal health insurance program for adults 65 and older.

The annual nationwide open enrollment period for Medicare is Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 and is the opportunity to join, switch or drop a Medicare plan or Medigap plan (supplemental insurance for medical costs not covered by Medicare). Any changes older adults make during the open enrollment period will go into effect Jan. 1, 2023. Participants also will have the option to make no changes and keep the plans they currently have.

During the resource fair, health plan representatives will provide information and answer questions about Medicare plans and services as well as Medigap choices, and help everyone understand their options for the coming year. There also will be a presentation about these options and upcoming changes for 2023, resource information and more.

“Reassessing health care needs each year, as well as programs that can help keep costs down while maximizing benefits, is essential for aging well,” said Akila Gibbs, executive director of the Pasadena Senior Center. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a landmark amendment to the Social Security Act in 1965 that gave life to the Medicare program and changed the landscape of health care in the U.S. Prior to 1965, fewer than half of all Americans 65 and older had health insurance, compared to 96 percent today.

To register for the Medicare resource fair, visit: pasadenaseniorcenter.org and click on Activities & Events, then Special Events or call 626-795-4331.

Proof of COVID vaccination is required for everyone who uses the fitness center or attends onsite activities indoors. Masks are optional.

Chamber Positions on Measures; Propositions on the November Ballot

The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors considered propositions and ballot measures in advance of the November 8, election. In assessing measures for positions, the Pasadena Chamber Board looks at impacts on the local business community, our local economy, Pasadena Chamber members and the community at large. The Pasadena Chamber Board often decides to take no position on propositions.

The Pasadena Chamber Board took the following positions on measures and propositions appearing on the November ballot:

Here are the reasons for each recommendation:

Measure H: Rent control in Pasadena. The Pasadena Chamber Board voted to OPPOSE the measure because, rent control does not have the desired effect. It creates an entitlement for those in rent-controlled units and does nothing to increase the supply of affordable housing and often stifles production of rental housing in all price ranges. Rent control does nothing to enhance affordability of existing units and is likely increase rental costs to above market rates in Pasadena over time. In addition, the measure calls for an independent board that sets its own budget and salaries. Pasadena’s own experience shows this approach can result in those imposing their own salary paying highly inflated amounts for the work they are doing. The lack of oversight is an invitation to corruption.

Measure L: Library Tax extension in Pasadena: The Chamber Board chose to SUPPORT passage of the Library Tax measure. The Library Tax extends the existing levy for 15 years. It is not a new tax and will not increase costs for homeowners or commercial property owners. Pasadena’s Public Library system is a tremendous asset to our community and important to our local economy and the quality of life in Pasadena. The Board of Directors of the Pasadena Chamber recognized the importance of maintaining library services to our community in recommending voters support measure L.

Measure PPP: \$550 Billion Construction Bond for Pasadena City College: The Chamber Board chose to take NO POSITION on the measure. No information was forthcoming on the initiative at the time and the Chamber Board did not have basic figures on expenditures, costs to taxpayers or a list of projects proposed.

LA County Measure A: Would allow the LA County Board of Supervisors to fire the elected sheriff. The Chamber Board took NO POSITION because this was seen as a political matter. Pasadena also has its own police department. While law enforcement in Pasadena does work with the sheriffs and the Chamber has members within the jurisdiction of the LA County Sheriff’s Department, it was felt this was not something appropriate for the Chamber Board to weigh in on.

Proposition 1, California Constitutional Amendment Protecting Reproductive Rights: The Board took NO POSITION for two reasons: the measures being enshrined in the state constitution are already California law and passage or failure of the proposition

would have no material impact on the economy of Pasadena or the region or state. The Pasadena Chamber Board and the Chamber Legislative Committee overwhelmingly support a woman’s right to choose, but felt it was best to take no position on Proposition 1.

Proposition 26: Legalize Sports Gambling at Indian Casinos and Racetracks. The Pasadena Chamber Board of Directors chose to SUPPORT the measure. It would maintain on-site gambling and add sports betting at Indian casinos. It would expand some forms of gambling to California racetracks. Passage of Proposition 26 would be a reasonable expansion of gambling while enhancing revenue opportunities for racetracks, including Santa Anita Park locally.

Proposition 27: Legalize Online Sports Betting: The Chamber Board voted to OPPOSE Prop 27 because it would open California to online and mobile device sports betting with few of the proceeds staying in California to benefit Californians.

Proposition 28: Funding for the Arts: The Pasadena Chamber Board SUPPORTS passage of Prop 28. Funding for arts education, including performing arts education, was cut drastically during the recession of 2008. Increasing funding for the arts is good for children’s education. The state is enjoying a massive budget surplus and funding for this measure is easily absorbed by the annual state budget. support because arts education is crucial to a child’s education, whether they are artistic or not. The funding is easily found within the state budget and the amount is not enough to really impact other state programs.

Proposition 29: Doctors at Dialysis Clinics: The Chamber Board recommends voters OPPOSE the measure. There is no clear problem defined that the requirement of having doctors or registered nurses at dialysis clinics would solve. The Board saw Proposition 29 as the third similar measure developed by a labor union trying to force private dialysis clinics to unionize.

Proposition 30: Tax Incomes Above \$2 million to fund electric vehicle purchases, charging stations, wildfire abatement and more. The Chamber Board OPPOSES passage of Prop 30 because there will be ample funds from the state and federal government to address the issues targeted here, electric vehicle ownership, solar installations and wildfire prevention. The Board also felt that, at some point, taxing high income individuals could chase them out of California.

Proposition 31: Upholds Ban on Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products: The Chamber Board SUPPORTS passage of Prop 31. Maintaining the ban on flavored tobacco products will help protect children and teens from smoking and ill effects of the use of tobacco products. Fewer smokers, vapers and tobacco users will mean healthier Californians and lower healthcare costs.

“The Pasadena Chamber Board of Directors is very careful and deliberate in choosing positions on initiatives that may impact our economy, local businesses and our members,” said Pasadena Chamber CEO Paul Little.

Governor Vetoes Bill to Limit Solitary Confinement

State Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed Assemblymember Chris Holden’s bill, AB 2632 the California Mandela Act on Solitary Confinement. The bill would place comprehensive limits and oversight on the use of solitary confinement in California’s prisons, jails and private detention facilities. The bill would also ban the use of solitary confinement against pregnant people, as well as individuals in certain age groups or with certain disabilities.

The bill would have placed California among the leading states on the issue of solitary confinement, and would have been the first bill to include limits on private immigration detention



facilities. “California has a dark history on the issue of solitary confinement, and this bill was our chance to get it right on this issue,” said Assemblymember Chris Holden. “The scientific consensus and the international standards are clear, solitary confinement is torture and there must be limitations and oversight on the practice.”

FREE COMPOST GIVEAWAY

For South Pasadena Residents ONLY

Saturday, October 29, 2022

9:00am-12:00pm

Compost (donated by Athens Services) consists of organic material, including food waste. It breaks down to a fine, dark matter over time and enriches soil. Athens compost is certified organic under the USDA National Organic Program.

Bring a sturdy container and shovel

Limit 2 (two) 35 gallon containers per household

Bring proof of residence (ID or utility bill)

Arroyo Seco Golf Course parking lot

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www.SouthPasadenaCA.gov/EnvironmentalPrograms

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Athens Services

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AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

MAKING THE FUTURE A LITTLE BRIGHTER: Foothill UNITY CENTER

By Joan Schmidt

Foothill Unity Center recently celebrated its 23rd Annual Golden Plates Gala honoring exceptional individuals who support the Center and our communities. The evening began with a warm welcome from the Center's Chief Executive Officer, Tashera Taylor, who graciously thanked the generous donors and sponsors, caring staff, selfless volunteers, hard-working Board of Directors, and of course those using the gala.

This year's theme was "Help Us Make the Future A Little Brighter". All the honorees certainly have contributed to making the future brighter for so many people in need. Rao and Indira Yalamanchili received the HEART IN HAND HUMANITARIAN AWARD. They came to the US from India in 1971. Rao first worked as a civil engineer. In 1975, he and Indira became property managers of their apartment building residence; then began buying and managing more apartment buildings full time. They moved to Arcadia in 1977 and community involvement became a top priority. They are local benefactors in the founding of Hindu Temples in Baldwin Park, Montebello and Riverside. Rao has served on the Board of Directors of Watts Learning Center Charter School since 2015. Both Rao and Indira are honored to support the Foothill Unity Center. They with their family and company employees volunteer many hours at the Center's events helping to fulfill the Center's mission of helping neighbors in need.



The 2021 Neighbors Helping Neighbors Business Award honoree was Donna Baker. Donna came to Monrovia with husband David in 1987 and began volunteering with the Monrovia Historic Preservation Group. She continues to support many community organizations, Foothill Unity Center, Monrovia Schools, City of Hope Blood Drive, youth baseball and Monrovia Chamber of Commerce.

The 2012 Neighbors Helping Neighbors Youth Service Award was given to Kiwin's Club of Pasadena High School, a division of Key Club International founded by William Wallius and Remy Rabideau. Their 20 member club has volunteered at the Salvation Army and Foothill Unity Center to distribute food to low income individuals family. They also work with Amigos De Los Rios, to bring nature back to parks and schools through gardening in the Emerald Necklace.

2021 Carl Foote Legacy Award honoree David Steinmeyer, a longtime Center volunteer, joined the Board in 2004. His favorite programs are the Thanksgiving & Holiday distributions where he directed logistics from 2005-2016.

Foothill Unity Center DOES "Make the Future a Little Brighter". Look at the 2021 stats : FOOD IMPACT:1,021,260 total meals; 5,306 food boxes to seniors & disabled,25,407 meals for homeless,3,722

Thanksgiving and Holiday boxes; COMMUNITY IMPACT: 13,820:Individual served:2X more than Pre-pandemic 2019; 61% :Families new to the Center,7,400 families served; 6,326: Case Management Services provided to 399 families; 247Nursing School Trainees, 45 work-experience trainees & 17 interns, 38,400 Volunteer Hours by 1,247 Volunteers; HEALTH IMPACT:3,525 Vital Health Screenings, 2,868 Dental Services, 17,850 Covid Masks, supplies, educational material and scheduling services 426 Covid Vaccines & Tests, 58 Families Placed in Permanent and Temporary Housing; The goal for the event was \$200,000. I last heard \$192,000 and counting! Please visit www.foothillunitycenter. They need volunteers and donations! They are a major source of food, health services and crisis assistance for thousands of low income families. Thank you.



ONE DEM MINUTE - THE VIDEO

Swing Left (swingleft.org) is a national grassroots organization dedicated to turning swing states blue in all elections since 2016 and now in the upcoming November 8 election. Swing Left San Gabriel Valley (SL SGV) is one of hundreds of local community affiliates.

Two members of SL SGV, Melanie Rothschild and Lotti Pharriss Knowles, came up with the idea of offering the public a chance to create short videos to submit to the inaugural One Dem Minute Film Festival. The videos covered the following categories: Economy, Reproductive Rights, Climate Change and Getting Democrats to Vote. The idea was to refute Republican/right-wing talking points on these issues, focus on the facts and strengthen Democratic voter turnout. One Dem Minute partnered with Civic Power of Change, an organization that creates pro-bono campaigns for down-ballot candidates nationwide.

The Awards Gala on Zoom was September 18th. There were fifty submissions and twenty finalists. The One Dem Minute team invites the public to watch the videos and share them in the most effective ways and places to get the word out about the importance of the November 2022 election.

The link to the Dropbox with finalist videos & release forms:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/47t6fmvi271sknw/AAC5yTO4vKTXnZf71BTglZMa?dl=0>

The link to the entire Zoom Film Festival on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YWkc4tO5aU>

For questions, contact:
One.Dem.Minute@gmail.com

The Chef Knows By Peter Dills

PIE N' BURGER - The Best of everything - Burgers and Breakfast

The day the earth stood still, was about fifty years ago, that must have been when Pie N' Burger was first opened. This is the quintessential Hamburger Stand in Pasadena. For my memory they tried a few other locations, but the Pasadena stood the test of time. Why? above average grub and some real how you doin... Darling type service. The owner "Mike" started working here as a cook and is a Trojan fan, so we'll go right to manager "Stephanie" (Normas Daughter) sweet lady that runs the place like it was her own. They tell me that Steph drives up to Sierra Madre at least three times a week to Taylor's meats and buys the trimmings for those delicious burgers. , Is it the best burger in Pasadena ? Arguably so says this restaurant adventurer. The burger is oh so juicy, and unlike the other over tendollar burgers I have fallen in and out of love with up the street on Lake Street his one is consistent!!! The cheese can be upgraded/added for a little a bit more.

Pie N' Burger is like that old couple that has lived in the same house for years; you just know you should stop in and see them. But pass by many times. I'm not a real big breakfast fan but I've been told by more then one person that when Orel Hershiser is in town he and Fred Claire make that there stop for breakfast. If Orel likes it must be good. The dessert menu has pies, well duh... Pie n' Burger. I ordered the Pecan Pie, and I asked my lovely server to warm it up, a run added to the score board it was quite good. They even have the old school type of Coca Cola, hard to explain but they mix the syrup with the soda.

Used to be On the side billboard it mentions the chili, hmm, that's long gone Yes, if you are looking for a good burger, I do recommend Pie N' Burger for sure!!!! I have read a few complaints about the price of the burger, but I think you get what you pay for. Sure you can get a \$5 burger somewhere else, but have you ever had a good \$5 burger, ok, maybe In' n out. The only thing I would change is the French Fries, this would be the perfect restaurant if they made their own fries. Ahh. I can only dream

Pie N' Burger Lake and California
Just me this Sunday evening on AM 830 KLAA for my radio show

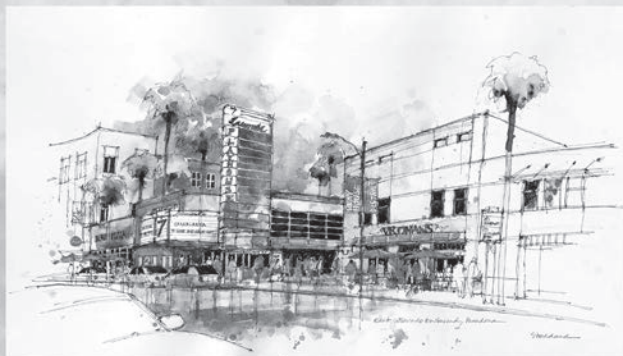


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CHRISTOPHER Nyerges A FAMILIAR NAME PLANT WITH A NEW NAME



“Miners Lettuce” is now Indian Lettuce or Rooreh

[Nyerges is an educator and the author of numerous books about the uses of wild plants. More information can be had at www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com]

Everyone in the West who studies wild plants – from Alaska to Baja – knows the plant commonly called Miner’s Lettuce. This plant is so distinctive that a botanical amateur can readily recognize it. The flower stalk develops a double leaf which looks like a cup, out of which the delicate flowers arise. It is very easy to recognize once in flower.

This was one of the very first wild foods that I learned to identify and use for food when I began my ethnobotanical studies in the early 1970s.

The plant – known as Claytonia perfoliata by botanists – has a centuries-long tradition of being used as a food. It has a mild lettuce-like texture and flavor that make it great both in raw salad dishes and in cooked dishes. Ethnographic papers of the pre-Goldrush era referred to this plant as Indian lettuce, since the indigenous peoples all used this plant for food.

As you discover in the book “Ishi in Two Worlds” by Theodora Kroeber, once gold was discovered in California, miners flooded into the state in search of riches, overwhelming native people and often killing them in one-sided pitched battles. The fact that lone Ishi of the Yana, the last of his tribe, managed to come out of the wilderness in 1911 and appear in Oroville, California was a miracle of human persistence.

Chinese peoples were there as well, and they too were pushed aside. The Chinese seemed to fare slightly better than the indigenous peoples, since they fought with both guns and legal means, but their numbers were still reduced dramatically by the Chinese Exclusionary Act of 1882, and local battles.

The miners – mostly Irish – were frugal men who were intent on being enriched by gold. Once the miners learned about this humble “Indian lettuce” which was so common in the spring, they ate it whenever they could. They consumed it raw, and cooked like spinach. They ate it with fish, with meat, and in soup. And because it contained vitamin C, it helped prevent scurvy in the men whose diet was mostly meat and beans. And so, in the post-Gold Rush era, Claytonia perfoliata took on the name “Miner’s Lettuce” because of the miners voracious appetite for it, and it was a name that has stuck for the last 100+ years, despite the uncomfortable associations.

Now, a movement is afoot to right the wrongs of the past, at least as it pertains to the name of this plant. Some native peoples are calling it by its post Gold Rush name, Indian Lettuce, or even by their local names. Some, like the Jepson manual (the official botanical manual for the state of California), are referring to it by its Ohlone name (the Ohlone reside in Northern California) of Ro-oreh. It’s pronounced “row-oh-ray,” which might take a bit of getting used to. I suspect that the name Indian Lettuce will take over as the term “Miner’s lettuce” is left in the dust.

According to healer Enrique Villaseñor, “While some people may see this name change as politically correct, this small but important step recognizes the important connection between California native plants and California’s indigenous people. No one can change history, but we can do better going forward.”

In case some of you are unfamiliar with this spring plant, here are some keys to identifying it. Indian lettuce is an annual which arises after the winter and spring rains. It is found mostly in wilderness areas. When there is more rain, there is more Indian lettuce, with larger leaves. The next plants often appear in mass patches, such as where there is shade in canyons or abundant moisture. The first small leaves are trapezoid-shaped, delicate, and often water-spotted. The leaves which produce the flowers have the characteristic cup-shaped leaf. Each root grows a cluster of stems, which is what gave rise to the idea that this was like a head of lettuce. However, Indian lettuce is not related at all to the traditional “Lactuca” lettuces.

This is one of the very first wild foods that I learned to eat as a teenager. Once I spent nearly a week eating little more than Indian lettuce: with these leaves, I made soup, salad, mixed stew, and an egg dish. I have devoted a chapter to this wonderful plant in several of my books on the uses of wild foods.

The seeds of Claytonia perfoliata are sometimes found for sale at native plant nurseries. It is easy to cultivate as a garden plant when it’s in rich soil. The plant is an annual and it readily re-seeds.

My one peeve about wildcrafters who collect this plant for food is that they needlessly uproot it. I have always been able to collect what I need by clipping the stems low, but leaving the root. This means that the plant has a chance to continue to grow after I have left, and perhaps even produce more seed.



Katnip News!



And Then There’s MOCHA!

The past two weeks you’ve met 4 of 5 siblings called, “The Coffee Clatch Kittens.” Last, but certainly not least, is adorable Mocha. Mocha is the cutest tortoiseshell (tortie) ever, and has the most interesting marking on her mouth fur, with half light brown and half dark brown! Mocha simply must be seen in purr-son! She’s sweet, cuddly, and loves her siblings, all named after coffees: Joe, Mr. Peets, Kona, Latte. See more pictures of them on our website’s Very Young page. Please choose 2 unless you already have a playful young feline at home. We are taking applications now for delivery in October. They will already come spayed/neutered, microchipped, vaxed, tested healthy, and more! That’s big savings for you! Get the process started to meet them by submitting the application at www.lifelineforpets.org. Can’t adopt? Please share with someone who can. We want these babies in their forever homes asap. Thank you!



Pet of the Week

We really need to talk about Bruno. He is an astonishingly handsome Chow/Akita mix who will surely turn heads wherever he goes. He’s about 10 months old and full of fun!

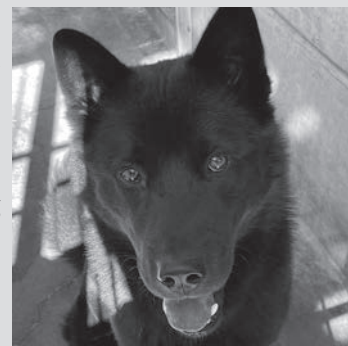
Bruno was brought to the shelter because his family didn’t have time for him. Raising a large puppy can be quite difficult, but we’ve seen plenty of indications that Bruno is treat-motivated and has the ability to learn quickly. This guy will be so much fun to take hiking, camping or on any other adventure!

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. Adoptions are by appointment only, and new adoption appointments are available every Sunday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

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



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FAMILY MATTERS

GUEST COLUMNIST APPEARING THIS WEEK:

By Dr. Donna O’Shea, chief medical officer of population health, UnitedHealthcare

FIVE STRATEGIES TO HELP AVOID UNEXPECTED MEDICAL BILLS

Nearly everyone wants to save more money, including when it comes to paying for medical care. To help encourage that, various recent federal regulations have spurred a greater focus on health care cost transparency, both by hospitals and health plans.

For instance, the No Surprises Act is designed to help reduce the likelihood of people receiving an unexpectedly large medical bill, something that more than half of Americans have experienced. Other recent regulations require hospitals to post prices online, while health insurers have been mandated to do the same.

While these efforts offer important protections, there are various other ways to help avoid an unexpected medical bill. Here are five strategies to consider:

Comparison shop based on quality and cost. Health plans are now required to publicly disclose contracted rates with health care providers and facilities, with additional requirements for more consumer-friendly disclosures slated to start in 2023. Fortunately, some health plans already offer transparency resources featuring quality and cost information, available online, via a mobile app or through customer service. Before scheduling a medical appointment, check with your health plan to review quality and cost information, ideally for estimates based on actual contracted rates and customized based on your individual plan.

Stay in-network. While the No Surprises Act helps reduce the chance you will be left with a big bill if an out-of-network provider is involved with your care, it’s important to always start with in-network health care professionals and facilities for nonemergency care. That includes when referred by a primary care physician to labs for bloodwork, imaging (e.g., MRIs) and other tests. To help reduce the risk of surprise charges, some health plans are proactively contacting members before they go out of network, sending a text message, emailing or calling to notify them about more affordable in-network options.

Recognize remaining risks. Even with upfront research, there are still a few potential risks to be aware of. Many health plans cover preventive services, such as wellness visits, mammograms or colonoscopies. However, some advanced screenings may not be considered preventive services and can result in an out-of-pocket charge. To help avoid that, confirm with your health plan that any services or tests are covered under your benefits, potentially working with your care provider to complete a preauthorization form in advance.

Negotiate surprise bills. In the event of a surprise bill, talk with the support staff at the hospital or doctor’s office to request that the charge be waived or reduced. If needed, some health plans offer access to resolution support to help negotiate on behalf of members with hospitals and care providers. If you receive a surprise bill from an out-of-network care provider, call the number on the back of your insurance ID card to alert your health plan and check on assistance.

Consider plans with upfront pricing. Rather than receiving medical care and then waiting for the bill to arrive weeks or months later, some new health plans enable members to review – and pay for – out-of-pocket expenses before medical care is delivered. The goal is to make navigating the health system simpler and more transparent, in part by eliminating deductibles and using clear pricing to encourage people to select quality, cost-efficient health care providers and facilities.

In view of increasing price sensitivity due to rising inflation and other factors, considering these strategies may help contribute to your physical and financial well-being while reducing the risk of a surprise medical bill.

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In Assisted Living, one will get the support as needed, such as getting help with showering, grooming, and dressing. Again, these services are based on the seniors needs.

There are many reasons in working with us. At Safe Path for Seniors, we will assess the senior and depending on their care needs and budget, make recommendations. For example, we may suggest that the right fit is a Board and Care Home (normally a 6-bedroom house) as opposed to an Assisted Living Community or a Memory Support Facility. You will work with an experienced agent who knows the industry well and will give you recommendations. The good news is that there is no cost for this service.

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

AUTO AIDS THAT MAKE DRIVING EASIER AND SAFER

Dear Savvy Senior:

Do you know of any car gadgets that can help older drivers? I drive a 12-year-old car and have arthritis in my neck, back and knees which limits my mobility making it more difficult to get in and out of the car and look over my shoulder to backup. Almost 80



Dear Almost,

To help keep older drivers safe and extend their driving years, there are a number of inexpensive products you can purchase that can easily be added to your vehicle to help with many different needs. Here are some popular auto aids to consider.

Entry and Exit Aids

For mobility challenged seniors who have a difficult time entering and exiting a vehicle – especially cars that are low to the ground or high vehicles such as SUV's or pickup trucks – there are a variety of support handles and special seat cushions that can help.

Some examples include the Stander (stander.com) “HandyBar” (\$40), which is a portable support grab bar that inserts into the U-shaped striker plate on the doorframe, and the “CarCaddie” (\$20), a nylon support handle that buckles around the top of the door window frame. Stander also has an “Auto Swivel Seat Cushion” (\$40), that rotates 360 degrees to help drivers and passengers pivot their body into and out of their vehicle.

Rear Vision Improvements

To help those with neck and back range of motion problems, which makes looking over the shoulder to back-up or merge into traffic difficult, there are special mirrors you can add as well as back-up cameras.

To widen rear visibility and eliminate blind spots, Verivue Mirrors (verivuemirrors.com) offers the popular “Universal 12-Inch Panoramic Rearview Mirror” (\$13) that clips on to existing rear-view mirrors, along with a variety of “Blind Spot Mirrors” (\$5 for two), which are small convex mirrors that stick to the corner of the sideview mirrors.

Another helpful device is the “Auto-vox CS-2 Wireless Backup Camera Kit” (\$120, www.auto-vox.com). This comes with a night vision camera that attaches to the rear license plate, and a small monitor that mounts to the dash or windshield. When the vehicle is in reverse, it sends live images wirelessly to the monitor so you can see what's behind you.

Seat Belt Extenders

For plus-sized people or those with mobility problems, there are seat belt extension products that can make buckling up a little easier. For example, Seat Belt Extender Pros (seatbeltextenderpros.com) offers vehicle-specific “Seat Belt Extenders” (\$13 to \$26) that fit into the seat belt buckle receiver to add a few inches of length, making them easier to fasten. They also sell a “Seat Belt Grabber Handle” (\$8), which is a rubber extension handle that attaches to the seat belt strap to make it easier to reach.

Gripping Devices

If you have hand arthritis that makes gripping difficult or painful, consider the “SEG Direct Steering Wheel Cover” (\$17) that fits over the steering wheel to make it larger, softer and easier to grip. And for help twisting open tight gas caps, the “Gas Cap & Oil Cap Opener by Gascapoff” (\$17) is a long-handled tool that works like a wrench to loosen and tighten gas caps. Many of these products can be found in your local auto supply stores or online at the manufacturer's website or at Amazon.com. Just type the product name in the search bar to find them.

Professional Help

If you need more assistance, consider contacting a driver rehabilitation specialist who are trained to evaluate elderly drivers and provide safety and driving equipment suggestions.

In addition to the types of aids mentioned in this column, there's also a range of adaptive driving equipment that can be professionally installed on a vehicle – like swing-out swivel seats, pedal extenders, hand controls and more – to help people with various disabilities. To locate a driver rehabilitation specialist in your area, visit ADED.net or MyAOTA.aota.org/driver_search.

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

SENIOR HAPPENINGS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS*

Janda Ferris, Darlene Traxler, Margit Johnson, Sole Krieg, George Maurer, Dick Anderson, Eva Poet, Mary Jane Baker, Dixie Coutant, Jill Franks, Cathleen Cremins, Adie Marshall, Darlene Crook, Susan Gallagher, Maggie Ellis, Gloria Giersbach, Ellen O'Leary, Jenny Piangenti, Anita Thompson, Linda Boehm and Angela Stella * 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 play 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

Thursday, 10/13 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 Oct. 12 and Oct. 26 — 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, 10/4 and 10/18 —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, Oct. 11 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.

LOTERIA: Oct. 20 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Come down to the HPH (Hart Park House) for a lively round of Loteria (Mexican Bingo) Prizes await!

OCTOBER CRAFT

Tuesday, October 25 10:30am Hart Park House Have you ever had interest in balloon art? Well you are in luck! Join Recreation Coordinator Pardo as she instructs us on how to create a cat, bat or pumpkin balloon column. Space is limited so please call or email Lawren to reserve your spot.

SENIOR CINEMA

Wednesday, 10/12— 1:00 pm **HUBIE HALLOWEEN** PG-13 1h 43m Good-natured but eccentric community volunteer Hubie Dubois finds himself at the center of a real murder case on Halloween night. Despite his devotion to his hometown of Salem, Massachusetts (and its legendary Halloween celebration). Wednesday, 10/26 – Beginning at 1:00pm **THE BIRDS** PG 1h 59m

SPECIAL MEDICARE PRESENTATION

Thursday 10/13, 9:00 am-10:00 am Hart Park House Please join Duarte Councilmember Vihn for a Medicare presentation. Pastries and coffee will be served during this informative presentation. Space is limited, call Lawren to reserve your spot.

OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

HAVE NOSE, WILL SNORE!



Having been married as long as The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and myself, there are very few things we disagree. I run by the idea, “Do you want to be happy, or do you want to be right?” That has guided me through many a storm these past years. Almost every day, I come across somebody having difficulty getting along with their spouse. My counseling has been consistent through the years, “You don't always have to be right.” That's what causes a lot of problems in relationships. People are obsessed with being right about everything, even when wrong. It doesn't cost a person a lot to give in, even when they might be right. Our relationship has been very calm except for a few bumps. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is what I call a Vegetable Freak, whereas, on the other side of the kitchen table, I'm just a Freak. If my wife doesn't get her daily dose of vegetables, she can become quite anxious. However, when I get my daily dose of vegetables, I also become anxious but in the other direction. The king on her vegetable table is broccoli. Just the sight of broccoli is very offensive to me. I never had broccoli when I was growing up, and I'm not going to have broccoli until I die. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is very focused on her broccoli diet. If a day goes by that, she has not had broccoli, I have not seen it yet. Often I use broccoli as a bargaining chip for my favorite food, Apple Fritter. From my point of view, and it's only mine, the Apple Fritter makes up for Eve's apple blunder in the Garden of Eden. That is my story, and I'm sticking to it. Probably, the biggest controversy we have, which has been with us ever since we were married, has to do with snoring. But, for some reason, I know not why, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage assumes that I snore every night. Often in the middle of the night, I will feel a sharp elbow in my Adam ribs and hear somebody say, “Stop your snoring.” For the life of me I have no idea what she's talking about. She will confront me in the morning over breakfast with the idea that I snore at night. With a very quizzical nod, I just tried to forget that complaint. I know that I don't snore at night. “You know how miserable it makes me to hear you snoring all night?” I return her quizzical look and tell her that I don't know what she is talking about. I stayed up one night and never heard my-

self snore. For some reason, she has the idea that snoring is bad for your health. “Don't you know it's not healthy to snore at night like you do?” I kept my response to myself, but if snoring is not healthy, how come everybody does it? I don't want her to hear me say that for various reasons. I'm not sure about the health damage snoring does to a person. If I had been snoring all these years, according to her, how come it has not affected my health? One night I got up and went to the kitchen to get a drink of water. Then, walking down the hallway to the bedroom, I heard this raspy noise. As I got to my bedroom, here it was, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage snoring. I only regret that I did not tape that incident because it would have been worth a lot to me. When we got up in the morning, I was chuckling, and looking at me, she said, “Why are you laughing?” Do I tell her, or do I pass it off? Being who I am, I actually did tell her. She glared at me and said most vocally, “I do not snore, and I don't want to hear you tell me that ever again.” I chuckled inwardly and was waiting for some excuse to tell her again. Then I saw it. A little Facebook report said that contrary to what people have believed, snoring is a very healthy thing for your body. According to this investigation, the bigger you are, the more you need to snore. In sharing this new information with my wife, she was not very sympathetic. “That cannot be right,” she said most defiantly. “Snoring is not healthy.” Then I showed her the story and even read it, and she did not want to believe it. I looked at her and said, “It must be true because it's on Facebook.” Looking at me she said, “You believe everything you read on Facebook?” “Well,” I said as soberly as possible, “I believe this one for sure.” Not knowing what to say, she just turned around and walked away, mumbling something I couldn't understand. When we went to bed that night, I looked at her and said, “I'm going to have a very healthy night tonight.” She didn't smile, but I did. As I drifted off to la-la-land, I thought of a scripture. Amos 3:3, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” It is quite rare when two people agree on everything. It is important that we agree on the right things. We can have our difference but there are crucial issues where we must agree. Every relationship is based on discovering those issues and committing ourselves to them.

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STUART TOLCHIN



waiting for several minutes for midnight to arrive. I disconnect my phone from its charger and settle onto my recliner which is next to the window in my bedroom. I settle back onto the recliner trying to make sure that my feet are above my heart as I have been assured that this posture is beneficial for my circulation. I try to make as little noise as possible and keep all the lights low so as not to wake my dog, DREAM(Y) who is already sprawled across the bed. Those few of you with a mind something like mine will note that the letters of the dog's name are exactly the same (absent the "Y") as the second word of this wonderful city's name which is Sierra MADRE.

I would like to take credit for this masterful linguistic duplication but I cannot. Like almost everything else in my life it just sort of happened. Some time, about a year ago a dog wandered over to our home and just hung around, obviously lost. My wife and I read the chip (I don't know if I was actually able to read the small print) and found a phone number which we called. The number belonged to a canyon neighbor who immediately came over to the house to claim the dog. She explained that she had just obtained the dog from a shelter and fortunately had just attached the chip. She told us about the shelter and said it was a wonderful place where abandoned dogs were kept. I listened and became aware that I needed to have a dog as it had been months since our beloved Milo had been euthanized. My wife said she had a dream about Milo last night and asked why I was writing about Milo anyway. I told her I was not writing about Milo but, rather I was writing about Arcadia but just had not gotten there yet. Actually my intent is to write about writing; but that's even further away.

Reluctantly, I leave Milo and return to my recliner and my daily midnight appointments with the spelling Bee. While on the recliner I can only use my IPHONE to engage the puzzle. After all it is midnight and I am tired and it is just too much exertion to get up, turn on the lights, risk waking Dreamy, and deal with the computer, which still, after all these years, seems to scare me.

PUT THE LIGHTS ON

ARCADIA - IT IS OFTEN SO HARD TO STAY THERE

I reserve the use of the computer for sacred moments such as these when I struggle to compose my weekly articles. "Struggle" is an incomplete word---writing the articles and seeing them appear before me on the computer monitor is about as close as I come to a mystical experience. Time disappears and I lose myself in the process of attempting to create something that is meaningful and accurate. I still worry if anyone else will care.

Is it freedom or fatigue that places me on the recliner at midnight attempting to do the Spelling Bee puzzle using only my iPhone. The very iPhone which makes it extremely difficult to see the keyboard and to know if I have struck the correct letters. Nightly I persist and eventually reach the Genius level. I receive a small shot of dopamine or some small exhilaration as I complete the puzzle. Really it is not the solution; but rather it is the whole quest that engages me. Perhaps the difficulty related to the iPhone use is part of what makes the quest so meaningful. Alas, this particular morning I could not solve the puzzle. I tried to actually go to sleep, without disturbing Dreamy, and thought of the pleasant yesterday Sunday afternoon when my wife, son and I had taken my granddaughter down the hill to the Arboretum in Arcadia. We had eaten lunch and then watched my granddaughter running around safely on the grass and merging with other kids chasing around under a drone that was being operated by someone's father. Eventually my three year old granddaughter, and my fifty year old developmentally disabled but monumentally caring and kind son, settled onto a bench whereupon they were joined by a live chattering peacock with whom my granddaughter had exchanged greetings. For me watching from across the lawn, seated next to my wife, this was bliss that I remembered as I tossed around in bed still bothered by the uncompleted puzzle.

I recalled the pleasant feelings of the Arcadia Arboretum and presto the puzzle was solved. Arcadia, meaning a region of simple pleasures and quiet, was the necessary word to complete the puzzle. Concurrently, I understood that it is often the difficulties of life, the difficulties I attempt to write about, which give our own individual lives a personal significance. Maybe I could make the puzzle easier for myself and maybe I could even abandon writing these articles and stop worrying that no one else cares about them. I worry that I cannot care for myself and that a part of my life, perhaps my secret life as a writer. Is to worry about you.

TOM PURCELL



Changing communications technology is one of life's never-ending annoyances, and now we have a new agitation: voice messaging.

Voice messaging allows smartphone owners to record their voice and send the recording to others as they would a text or a chat.

According to the Wall Street Journal, some people consider the technique bothersome and rude — a camp I am clearly in, and I'll happily explain why.

I've experienced a lot of phone-technology changes in my life.

When I was a kid in the '70s and the phone rang, it was always a surprise and you'd hurry to find out who was calling our house.

Hard as it is for some to imagine, we had no caller ID.

We had no call-waiting, either — if you were on the line talking and someone called you, that person would be greeted by a busy signal.

Worse yet, if you needed a ride home after football practice, good luck getting through to my house.

My five sisters and my mom kept our single phone line occupied throughout the day. I spent half of my high school years redialing a pay phone.

The truth is, we actually wanted to answer the phone back then to learn who was calling.

Nothing was more disappointing than getting to a ringing phone too late and having the mystery caller hang up.

That began to change in the '70s when answering machines became affordable and many people began using them to screen their calls — behavior that was considered rude by many.

Here's what was even ruder: For whatever reason, some people refuse to leave messages on answering machines. Getting home to hear a hang-up click on the answering machine was awfully agitating.

Until the invention of "69."

Punching those three keys into the phone would provide the number of the dirty rotten person who had the audacity to call your home and not leave a message.

This gave us the ability to call the rude person back, wait for his answering machine to play, then hang up!

And so it was that technology enabled rudeness began to proliferate.

Now, when our smartphones ring, we look to see who the rude person calling is, and think, before letting it go to voicemail, "Why couldn't the idiot text me like a normal person?"

Which brings us to voice messaging.

As a highly impatient person, I'm far too busy to listen to other humans use spoken words to convey human thoughts to me.

The inflexions and changing tones they use to illustrate their points may seem more human and nuanced to them, but they only make me grumpier.

Look, I am a master procrastinator who wastes time all day long — but I resent when others waste my time for me by sending me voice chats that I have to spend precious seconds listening to.

For goodness sakes, email me or text me and give me words to read.

I'll email you or text back some nice words you can read, and then the both of us can go on our merry way promoting the rudeness, grumpiness and incivility that we have allowed our technology to make a regrettable reality in modern life.

I leave you with this warning:

Keep voice messaging me and I swear to goodness I will buy a cheap cell phone that does not trace back to me and I'll call your home phone — then hang up on your answering machine!

RICH & FAMOUS

KNOW NO-NO'S

Planning an exciting excursion to some far off land in the near future? Before entering the airspace of foreign countries, travel professionals recommend doing your homework regarding social customs.

We at the Mountain Views News are committed 120% to world peace. So, I have been tasked by higher authorities to share a few international no-no's.

DO NOT CHEW GUM IN SINGAPORE: Its outlawed. You cannot buy or sell gum. If you're caught you will pay a hefty fine.

IN LATIN AMERICA AND MEXICO DO NOT ARRIVE ON-TIME! If the party is said to start at 8pm, do not arrive before 9pm.

A number of faus faux are committed using the hands. Possibly the most universally abused signal is what we Yanks know as the "okay" sign. Forefinger and thumb touching creating a circle.

In Brazil its like giving them the middle finger. In fact, Richard Nixon infuriated the entire country of Brazil by making the okay sign on national television. In the middle east it symbolizes the "evil eye".

The "thumbs up" in the middle east of Greece is the equivalent of giving them the middle finger. Yikes!

In China, Japan, France and Saudi Arabia: Never blow your nose in public. Take your nose into the rest room and for heaven's sake wash your hands... they may be watching.

France: Never, never refill your wine glass without first offering more to the rest at your table.

France: Do not ever engage in a conversation with a local until you have greeted them. Bonjour or Excusez-moi are friendly greetings. Then you can tell them how we saved their backsides in World War 2.

Australia, South Africa and the United Kingdom: If you give someone the two fingers up peace sign, particularly with your palm facing you, you have flipped them off. If you want two drinks in a crowded pub you won't get served with the two-finger salute.

Germany: Believe it or not many Americans are guilty of this. Do not ever do the Nazi salute. It's against the law and you could be put in das gefangnis. AKA the slammer.

Indonesia, India and the Middle East: Do not use your left hand when shaking hands or eating. Standard biological activities conducted in bathrooms in Indonesia are done with the left hand. It should be limp at your side.

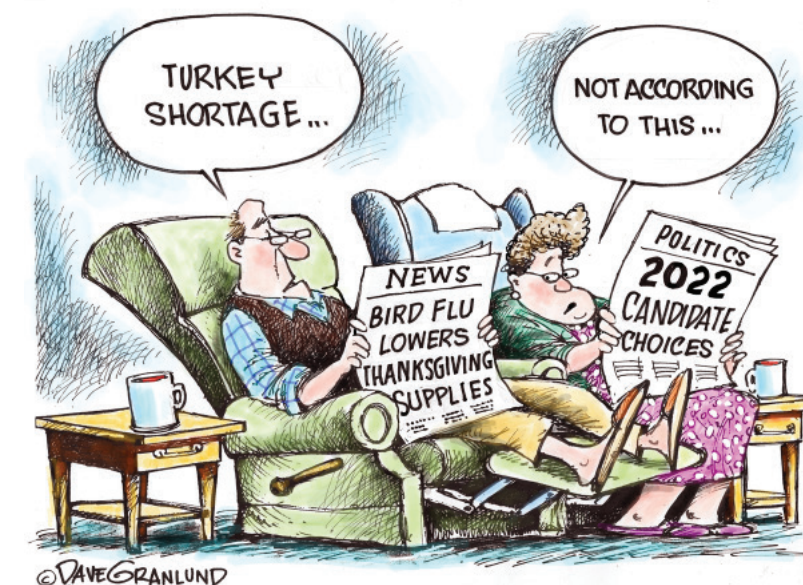
Malaysia: Never pound your fist into your hand. It's an obscenity. Pounding your fist with your hand is the Malaysian counterpart to gesturing with your middle finger.

Nepal: Don't shake hands or hug someone you are just meeting. Press your palms together in a prayer-like gesture known as namaste. Kissing in public is also a no-no, particularly if you don't know the person lol.

New Zealand: If a New Zealander suddenly slaps their chests, grunts and sticks out their tongues they haven't lost their mind. They are participating in a Haka. A war-cry performed before a war, or a rugby match. Best not to make fun of it.

Russia and Europe: This seems odd. When giving flowers to someone, always give them an odd number of flowers...unless they're dead. Then an even number of flowers is totally appropriate.

Thailand: For heavens sake do not put your feet on the table. Or use them to pick something up. In Thailand, the head is the most sacred part of the body and the feet are the least. Resist the temptation to jump on a table in Thailand.



STRONG START FOR SIERRA MADRE SOFTBALL'S FALL SEASON



big-hit contributors included Aubrey Myers, Angelica Guerrero, Jaden May and Leighton Acker. Those 14U families now have their eyes on winning the State Championship for Sierra Madre next Spring.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS: In the 10U Division back at Heasley, Maile Morita of the Pink Flames pitched a No-Hitter against Team Miranda and struck out 11 batters in the process. There were big RBI hits from Ava Descallar and Gianna Gonzalez. Ava also made a great catch in the field. Sarah Bates flashed her catching skills and threw out 3 runners on the bases. During week 2, in the Pink Flames vs. Queen Bees match-up, Maddy Acker pitched a great game for the Pink Flames and struck out 5 in three innings of work. Giselle Luna had to big RBI hits and Jenay Jones added another hit to lead the Pink Flames. Ava Descallar and Margo Blacker also made their catching debuts and did a great job behind the plate.

On the Red 10U team called Jaws, Ava Smith hit her first home run!

In the 8U Division, SMGSA's Red Wrecking Balls (8U) displayed sturdy pitching and ferocious batting in a 3 inning, 13 to 3 victory over Pasadena's visiting team. In her second start on the mound, Addison Arnerich recorded 2 strikeouts in the top of the first, but Pasadena 8U then jumped out to an early lead. Their scoring was quickly contained by great defense from 1B Melodie Modarres, and similar to their game 1, the Red Wrecking Balls unleashed their explosive bats, recording 4 hits and 4 runs with notable smash outfield doubles by Amia Macias and Arnerich.



Aided by the trusty catching of Emilia Turnquist and Gloria Brusseau, Red Wrecking Ball pitching locked Pasadena down, with Arnerich showing dominance and then handing it over to Alyssa Schulman who allowed Pasadena only 1 hit and 2 runs. More offense then came from Melodie Arias (triple to center) and a second double by Macias, along with singles by Piper Henrich, Kira Meakin, and Isabella Frayeh, and an inside the park HR by Hannah Skinner (her first home run!) to finish the game.

Also in the 8U division, Kylie Chong, #8 (left) of the Raptors (closeup shown in the green uniform) went up to bat for the second time in her life (she is still only 6 years old!!!). Regardless, Kylie swung with all her might at the 3rd pitch and hit a line drive down the third base line, barely staying in play. Her teammate safely made it home bringing the score to 2-1 Marquez and giving Kylie her first RBI. The Raptors would go on to tie the game in the third inning with a final score of 3-3.

About SMGSA: Sierra Madre Girls Softball Association offers local girls aged 5 to 14 from the opportunity to develop softball skills, confidence and good sportsmanship in a positive environment. For more information, visit smgsa.org and follow SMGSA on Facebook @ [sierramadregirlsoftballassociation](https://www.facebook.com/sierramadregirlsoftballassociation) and Instagram @smgsa.

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