



Our hearts go out to all those affected by the Los Angeles wildfires. As your neighbors, we're here to help our community recover

### Resources:

#### Free temporary housing:

If you know anyone who has been evacuated or lost their home due to the fire, they can call 211 which has partnered with Airbnb and are providing people one week of free stay at an Airbnb.

#### FEMA Assistance:

Register Online or by Phone: Call FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)

#### Los Angeles County Assessor:

Taxpayers whose properties have either been destroyed or sustained a minimum of \$10,000 in damage may file a Misfortune and Calamity (M&C) claim for property tax relief. Assessor's Disaster Relief Hotline (213) 974-8658

#### Convoy For Hope:

Organizations like Convoy of Hope provide disaster relief and recovery services, including distributing relief supplies and offering support for rebuilding.

#### Donations:

CAR Disaster Relief, Pasadena Humane Society, Mutual Aid Los Angeles Network



**Jan Greteman 626.975.4033**  
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**Judy Webb-Martin 626.688.2273**  
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**COMPASS**

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### CITY OF SIERRA MADRE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER DO NOT DRINK – DO NOT BOIL YOUR WATER RESOLUTION

To all residents: The drinking water in Sierra Madre is safe for all uses. As a result of the Eaton Fire, and in an abundance of caution, On Tuesday, January 14, 2025 the City of Sierra Madre, State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB DDW) and Los Angeles County Health Department issued a "Do Not Drink-Do not Boil Water" Advisory to affected residents in Sierra Madre. The notice was in affect for residents on Grandview and North of Grandview.

The Eaton Fire did not cause any damage to the City's critical water infrastructure. The "Do Not Drink-Do Not Boil Your Water" notice was issued as a precaution to allow the City to conduct additional water quality testing and confirm that the fire did not affect the City's water quality.

Comprehensive water samples have been collected and tested by a third party laboratory and the results confirm that Sierra Madre's water meets all State and Federal water safety drinking standards, and there were no impacts to drinking water from the fire.

Therefore, the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB DDW) has authorized the removal of the "Do Not Drink-Do Not Boil Your Water" Advisory, effective Friday, January 24, 2025. The drinking water in Sierra Madre is safe for all uses.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Posted January 24, 2025:  
Laura Aguilar  
City Clerk for the City of Sierra Madre, CA

### BE A FLOAT DESIGNER

#### CONTRIBUTE A DESIGN FOR THE 2026 SIERRA MADRE ROSE FLOAT

Each year the Sierra Madre Rose Float Assoc. holds a contact to choose a design for our next float. Anyone can submit a black & white pencil or pen concept drawing on our submission form, along with a description. This year's design contest will be held until Wednesday, February 5th, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Please visit our website [www.SierraMadreRoseFloat.org](http://www.SierraMadreRoseFloat.org) for additional info, rules and guidelines..

### INSIDE THIS WEEK

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### EATON FIRE UPDATE AND PLANNING AHEAD

By Kevin McGuire

The Sierra Madre City Council received the latest update on the Eaton Fire during a thorough presentation by city officials and staff at the regularly scheduled meeting on January 21, 2024.

City Manager Jose Reynoso started by thanking the numerous personnel who fought the fire, kept the community safe, and the many behind-the-scenes individuals who kept the public informed through daily briefings and kept the city running during this tragic event.

As of Friday, January 24, The Eaton Fire was 95% contained after burning 14,021 acres, killing 17 people, and destroying 9418 structures across Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre. Fifteen structures burned down in Sierra Madre, with several other homes/structures sustaining damage from the fire.

The Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center was among the damaged structures on the 700 N. Sunnyside Avenue property. Over the last few years, Mountain Views News has extensively covered this property as the site of the approved Meadows project, which will eventually construct 42 new homes and a public park in an area now considered a high-fire risk.

What started as a hurricane-force wind event eventually initiated evacuation orders for more than 2,200 Sierra Madre residents, leaving many without power for nearly a week. Though power is restored and evacuation orders are lifted, some residents above Grandview Avenue were still under DO NOT DRINK orders for tap water.

**The Fire Department**  
Chief Brett Barlett, who had worked tirelessly with his team since the start of this emergency, addressed the City Council on Tuesday with the latest updates. The Sierra Madre Fire Department entered into unified command with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, CAL-Fire, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Arcadia Fire Department. "They worked their tails off for 36 hours straight," Chief Bartlett said of the eight firefighters from Sierra Madre who battled this blaze. There were no injured firefighters or civilian casualties in Sierra Madre.

Damage assessments have been completed in the fire perimeter within the city, debris has been removed in most areas, and drainage systems have been cleared. Winds have calmed, and air quality has improved to a GOOD level as of Friday.

#### The Next Steps

According to Chief Bartlett, efforts have now turned to erosion issues and slope stabilization in the burn area to mitigate the fire and mudslides. The National Weather Service forecasts a quarter- to half-inch of rain for Sierra Madre this weekend. Even that tiny amount can be of great concern in burn areas. Up to 17 free sandbags are available to residents to help prevent debris flow. Check out <https://lafd.org/news/lafd-provides-sandbags-homeowners> for information.

Chief Bartlett is looking for citizens to join the Fire Safe Council and Firewise USA® Communities and wants to expand public education programs on fire safety. He also called on the City Council to help strengthen resources for the department through grants and other programs. The Chief took the time to thank everyone for their efforts during a difficult time. "I extend my gratitude to all the first responders, all the volunteers...and to all the residents for their cooperation and resilience...this was a 100% community effort," Bartlett said.

#### The Police Department

Sierra Madre Police Chief Gustavo Barrantos followed Fire Chief Bartlett's update on the Eaton Fire. He also started with high praise for first responders, the police, and city staff. "Their professionalism and commitment were instrumental in ensuring the safety of our community," Chief Gustavo said.

The Police evacuated two-thirds of the city during the early stages of the Eaton Fire. Over 50 officers from neighboring cities helped with this process. Over the next few days, the police and National Guard had fixed posts in evacuated areas to limit traffic and deter criminals from taking advantage of empty homes in the neighborhoods.

After fire threats diminished, the police assisted in repopulating the affected areas while maintaining a maximum presence. The National Guard remained until Friday, January 17.

(Continued Page 2)



### A COMMUNITY UNITED:

In the wake of the devastating Eaton Fire, our hearts go out to those who have lost their homes and livelihoods. This week has brought unimaginable challenges, but together, we will move forward.

Now is the time to come together and support one another as we learn about the larger changes this event has wrought in our community.

Our Sincerest Gratitude to the first responders who ran towards the flames as we fled and to the brave citizens who selflessly helped their neighbors.

Our Heartfelt sympathy goes out to all affected. Let us know how we can help you!

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## CENTURY 21

Village Realty

626.355.1451

[c21village.com](http://c21village.com)

Serving the Community since 1980

follow us on Social Media @c21village

LIC# 02119245



**FOR SALE**

**SYLMAR \$249,000**  
Sylmar 3BR/2BA manufactured home with 2-car garage, patio, community pool, playground, gazebo, and athletic courts. Spacious living!



**FOR SALE**

**GLASSEL PARK \$750,000**  
Charming 2-bed 1-bath Glassel Park home with fireplace, ADU potential, spacious yard, fruit trees, and great location! Needs TLC but worth it!



**FOR SALE**

**WEST COVINA \$850,000**  
Charming 3-bedroom West Covina home with pool, family room, and den. Quiet street near shopping, dining, and freeways!

# SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA



## SIERRA MADRE WILDFIRE RESOURCE CENTER GETS A ...WELL 100.. HELPING HANDS!

On Thursday, January 23, 100 SoCalGas volunteers assisted in organizing thousands of pounds of community donations at the Pasadena-Sierra Madre Y.

Staffed with YMCA Staff and Sierra Madre Volunteers, the center has been open 17 days at press time serving those impacted by the fire. Volunteers Fred Thomas and Russ Meeks have taken

leadership roles in coordinating those who were making donations and those who came to help.

Those in need can go to 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd for essential resources, all of the LA Y's locations are open as resource hubs and distribution centers. All those impacted by the fires are welcome to get the support they need.

There are also opportunities to support the LA Y's wildfire relief efforts. If you would like to support, please visit [ymcala.org/community-response](https://ymcala.org/community-response) to learn about how to make a financial contribution, donate the most needed supplies, or volunteer your time.

While clothing donations are not needed at this time, the following items are being accepted:

- Hygiene kits and toiletries (new items only)
- Diabetic-friendly food, baby formula, peanut butter/jelly, cereal
- Reusable bags/grocery bags
- Luggage
- Sleeping equipment (blankets, sleeping bags, air mattresses)
- Air purifiers
- Heaters

## EATON FIRE UPDATE *continued from Page 1*

### Public Works

Arnulfo Yanez, Director of Public Works, says a plan is being developed with long-time Public Works Director Chris Cimino to prepare for possible mudflow in Sierra Madre. Cimino retired after 37 years on the job. Yanez noted that they also work with the Army Corp of Engineers daily. The city may already be seeing the installation of K-Rails in the northern part of the city. There are also 3,000 filled sandbags in the city yard to be used by staff to place around town in emergency areas, according to Yanez. Large debris is still being removed around town, and if you have items for pickup, please call Public Works at 626-355-7135.

Director Yanez also mentioned that Public Works would begin a three-phase cleaning process behind Sierra Madre Dam along Little Santa Anita Creek to prevent large debris flows. This will start on Monday, January 27. L.A. County Public Works will assist in this removal.

Public Works Management Analyst James Carlson gave an update on wildlife affected by the wildfires. Residents will still see coyotes roaming the areas but may see fewer large animals, such as deer, mountain lions, and bears, who tend to stay away from burn areas for at least three weeks. Carlson noted that they are receiving resources from the Wildlife Conservation Network to help protect species in the area. City Council also received updates from Water Superintendent Steve McGee, I.T. Manager Oscar Millan, and Assistant City Manager Miguel Hernandez.

You can watch the full City Council Meeting on the city website at <https://www.foothillsmedia.org/sierramadre#sierramadre1>.

## CITY EXTENDS BLOCK GRANT FOR SENIOR HOME REPAIRS

By Kevin McGuire

Three seniors in the Sierra Madre community will be chosen to receive a grant to make minor repairs to their homes, thanks to a long-running program being extended through fiscal year 2025-2026.

City Manager Jose Reynoso will revise the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Action Plan to help persons of low and moderate incomes rehabilitate their houses. This comes after the City Council adopted Resolution 25-05 authorizing the allocation of CDBG funds to continue the Senior Minor Home Rehabilitation Program, established in the fiscal year 2023-2024. Resolution 25-05 passed unanimously during a public hearing at the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 21. Clare Lin, Acting Director of Planning and Community Preservation, and Assistant Planner Katelyn Huang gave presentations.

According to Huang, the city has received 16 interest forms from seniors who hope to be considered for this grant. Three seniors have submitted complete applications, and consultants have started the pre-inspection process.

The CDBG program has been around since 1974. Over the next fiscal year, Sierra Madre is expected to receive an estimated \$40,908 and distribute \$17,255 to three eligible senior households for essential home improvements. Approximately \$4313 will be allocated for consultant services for each project.

"Wonderful program," stated Councilmember Edward Garcia. "We had a great presentation to the Senior Community Commission, and I'm thrilled to hear that there's interest in this."

"I anticipate an increase this year," said Mayor Pro Tem Kristine Lowe. "We are looking after the needs of our seniors right now...after this disaster," Lowe stated, referring to the Eaton Fire still being contained.

### Limited Funds for Limited Work

Though any grant money is helpful and appreciated, the CDBG funds are limited. Therefore, the focus must be on providing necessities that will assist seniors in efficiently handling everyday tasks in their homes.

Initially, the Minor Home Rehabilitation Program was set to help six seniors who earn less than 80% of their area median income, a metric used by Housing and Urban Development based on household size, among other factors. However, this meant that an average of only \$5,000 was available to assist the eligible seniors, which was insufficient to cover the costs of even some minor repairs.

The minor rehabilitation work includes wheelchair ramps, handrails, grab bars, tub conversions to roll-in showers, roof, plumbing, and window replacement. The 20% consulting fee would cover quarterly reporting, applicant qualification, contractor qualification, and all necessary documents for reimbursement. Sierra Madre has a large senior population. Twenty-five percent of them fall into the lower income bracket, so programs that assist older citizens with minor home improvements could be a significant factor for those who want to stay in their homes forever.

Those interested in this program can obtain information and forms under the Grant Program section of the city's website at [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com).

## REMEMBRANCE

### HELEN MARGARET (BARELA) BIELY

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Helen Margaret (Barela) Biely on November 8th, 2024 at the age of 93. Helen was born August 8th, 1931 in Los Angeles, CA to Anthony and Mary Louise Barela.



Helen moved to Sierra Madre as a young girl, she grew up and joined the United States Navy. After serving her country she returned home and met her soulmate Walter H. Biely. They married and bought their home on Alegria Ave where they had nine children. Helen loved her home and was able to pass peacefully at home surrounded by her children. Helen was preceded in death by her son Kenneth Charles Biely in November 1985 and by her husband Walter Henry Biely in January 1986. Helen worked several jobs to care for and raise her remaining minor children, finding her forever job at the Santa Anita Race Track. Helen worked at the Track for up to 30 years being forced into retirement due to the Covid Pandemic at the age of 90!

Helen loved life and never met anyone she didn't consider a friend or family. She always had an open door, a place to lay your head or a hot meal, probably tacos with mayonnaise. Honestly, it would be easier to say who did not live at the Biely home than who did. Helen had a love for children, animals, roses, jewelry, wind-chimes and nutcrackers.

Helen is survived by her children, Ronald (Colleen), Kimberly (Bill), Theresa, Stephanie, Mignon (Kevin), Tonia (Todd), Walter, Carmen, 29 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces, nephews and many friends.

Being a Catholic who loved Jesus and her faith, a Funeral Mass will be held Saturday February 15th, 2025 at 10 am, St. Rita Catholic Church (318 N Baldwin Ave, Sierra Madre CA 91024.) Luncheon to follow at Alverno Heights Academy (200 N Michillinda Ave, Sierra Madre CA 91024.) All are welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers the family ask that you make a donation for Walter Biely who lost his home in the Eaton Fire. Donations may be sent to Tonia Patino, 121 E Alegria Ave, Sierra Madre CA 91024.

# Healing Together

For those impacted by the fires in Los Angeles County

**FREE GROUP SESSIONS:**

**MONDAYS FROM 10AM-12PM**  
(JANUARY 20TH & 27TH; FEBRUARY 3RD & 10TH)

Sierra Madre Office - Art Therapy with Missy Washington, AMFT  
South Pasadena Office - Group with Lauren McAulay, APCC and Peter Clark, MA

**THURSDAYS FROM 4PM-6PM**  
(JANUARY 23RD & 30TH; FEBRUARY 6TH & 13TH)

Virtual group with Stella Galarza, Psy.D., LPCC

For more information text or call:  
(323)345-1402

Sierra Madre Office  
19 Suffolk Ave Suite C Sierra Madre, CA

South Pasadena Office  
1499 Huntington Drive, Suite 408 South Pasadena CA




# KNOW YOUR ZONE

**STAY ALERT DURING EMERGENCIES**

**The City of Sierra Madre** has adopted a "zone-based" app to notify residents about emergencies and necessary evacuations. By enrolling in this app, you will be aware of the emergencies in the zone you live in and receive notifications about nearby dangers such as brush fires and flooding. Please let us help you by enrolling in Genasys Protect and make you and your loved ones safe when critical events occur.



**genasys Protect**



<https://protect.genasys.com/download>

# NIXLE

Sign up for important messages from your city!

Text 91024 to 888777



**Community messages** are used to convey everyday local news, happenings, and developments.



**Advisory messages** are intended to communicate important, need-to-know information. For example, the Police Department will send out bear sighting notifications using this format.



**Alert messages** are reserved for critically important information where loss of life and/or property is potentially imminent. Alert messages are time-sensitive and require your immediate action

**By default, residents who are signed up for Nixle alerts will only receive email alerts for advisory messages. We recommend that our residents opt in for text messages for advisory and alert messages**

# SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA

## Weather Wise



### 6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows	40s
Mon	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows	40s
Tues	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows	40s
Wed	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	50s
Thur	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	50s
Fri	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

### SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS

#### SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 28, 2025 5:30pm

### THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS!

As part of the City of Sierra Madre's COVID-19 transparency efforts and The Brown Act provides the public with an opportunity to make public comments at any public meeting. Public comment may also be made by e-mail to [PublicComment@CityofSierraMadre.com](mailto:PublicComment@CityofSierraMadre.com) by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Emails will be acknowledged at the Council meeting and filed into public record. The public may also comment in person at the meeting.

The meetings will be streamed live on Foothills Media website at [foothillsmedia.org/sierramadre](http://foothillsmedia.org/sierramadre) and broadcast on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum)..

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

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

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

Your event must:

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

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



Sierra Madre Public LIBRARY  
Read • Discover • Connect

This week at the Sierra Madre Public Library

January 27 — February 1

### Monday

Baby Rhyme Time — Library at 9:00am

Preschool Storytime — Library at 10:00am

Enjoy the Library and check out a new book, movie, and more!

The Library has electricity, wifi, water, and restrooms.

Read, Discover, Connect @ Sierra Madre Public Library  
350 W Sierra Madre Blvd.  
(626) 355-7186

## WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

It's Monday, January 20th and I guess I'd call it a double-barreled day: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Inauguration Day. I came across this really excellent prayer of Dr. King's and thought I'd pass it along:

*"Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself."*

Before I do anything else, I want to thank our Editor, Susan Henderson, for an extraordinarily excellent edition of the Mountain Views News last week. Every page had helpful information, experiences of our neighbors and news of what is happening in our local communities as the fires are still burning. Seeing that 14 homes were lost here in Sierra Madre was devastating. John and I walked so many times up in the Canyon where most of this destruction occurred and enjoyed those walks so much with the water in the wash trickling by, the quiet and peace. Christopher Nyerges, "Personal Account of the Great Fire of 2025" was harrowing to say the least. (Page 11).

Fred Thomas's Letter to the Editor regarding the fact that the comment, "It's Just Stuff," meant to comfort those who have lost a lifetime of "stuff" is not helpful. We were in Hawaii some years ago and got home to find our house was robbed and that comment was made to us. We were already in shock and that didn't help at all. Our things are not "Just Stuff." They are the treasures of a lifetime. The things we have collected along the way through our lives that mean so much to us. Maybe just say, "I'm so sorry," instead of, "It's Just Stuff!"

*"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."* Martin Luther King, Jr.

So fitting for this time, this quote emphasizes the enduring nature of hope and its role in helping individuals and communities facing unthinkable challenges, reminding them that hope can outlast heartbreaking disappointments. With great relief I see that the Eaton fire is almost totally contained.

Yes, I watched the Inauguration. As soon as I saw that it was going to be held in the Capitol Rotunda instead of outside I was happy for everyone who was going to attend. In years past I have watched people bundled up to the eyebrows but still frozen and trying to look excited and happy when they could no longer feel their feet. Also, seeing what everyone was wearing instead of just a sub-zero-parka was pretty interesting. Let me tell you, there were some bad outfits there. I thought Mrs. Trump looked fabulous and the hat was purely a defense mechanism. When she first appeared and President Trump escorted her up the stairs to greet the Bidens, you couldn't see her eyes at all. I think she is essentially kind of shy and all this is tough. Mrs. Vance, the Vice President's wife, looked really nice in pink.

Watching the former presidents and their wives entering was interesting. Bill Clinton and Hilary were first and she walked a couple of steps ahead of him and from their demeanor, you'd think they'd just had words in the car on the way! George and Laura Bush entered holding hands and looking happy. Barack Obama entered alone as Michelle stayed home in her jammies and watched it on TV with the heat on and lots of hot coffee.

I was so taken with the huge art pieces, each of which is 12' x 18', on the walls of the Rotunda that I looked them up to see what they were

Four revolutionary period scenes were commissioned by Congress from John Trumbull in 1817 and placed in the Rotunda between 1819 and 1824:

- Declaration of Independence
- Surrender of General Burgoyne
- Surrender of Lord Cornwallis
- General George Washington Resigning his Commission

Four scenes of early exploration were added between 1840 and 1855:

- Landing of Columbus by John Vanderlyn
- Discovery of the Mississippi by William Powell
- Baptism of Pocahontas by John Chapman
- Embarkation of the Pilgrims by Robert Weir

The picture is The Declaration of Independence which depicts the moment on June 28, 1776 when the first draft of the Declaration of Independence was presented to the Second Continental Congress, as seen in the Capitol Rotunda

The introductory speeches by United States Senator Amy Klobuchar where she mentions our Los Angeles Firefighters and by United States Senator Deb Fischer were awesome. The invocations by Cardinal Dolan and Franklin Graham were truly inspirational. They both prayed for wisdom.

The music was fantastic. Carrie Underwood sang a flawless rendition of America the Beautiful a cappella when her music refused to play. The Naval Academy Glee Club performed the best version of Battle Hymn of the Republic I've ever heard.

There was so much more to comment upon but wherever your political heart lies, this 60th Inauguration ceremony was worth watching.

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His loving kindness lasts forever."*

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis  
Take a look! There are interesting goodies galore for You Kindle readers and even an actual book or two for you "I need to hold it in my hands" readers.

## THE NEXT PHASE FOR THE LIBRARY: FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT

The City has awarded TSK Architects a \$25,500 Consulting Services Contract to oversee the next phase of the Library Meaningful Improvement Project (LMIP).

The City Council approved the award during its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, as part of its consent calendar.

Over the last three years, Sierra Madre has received much-needed library renovations through grants and donations. In September 2024, the City awarded AMG & Associates a general contractor services contract to make improvements, including retrofitting for earthquake protection, installing new windows, and upgrading the fire suppression systems.

In this latest phase, TSK will manage the selection, quoting, ordering, delivery, installation, and final walk-throughs of furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the LMIP. Donations from the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will fund the work, and the library's facility/capital improvement fund will cover the costs of the TSK contract.

City staff reviewed three bids to design the library's interior before selecting TSK. As the renovations continue at the library, located at 440 W Sierra Madre Blvd., TSK architects will ensure that all building code standards are met.

The new furniture will include:

- Library Shelving  
Library Display Shelving  
Standalone Office Furniture - desks, tables, chairs, bookcases, filing cabinets, display cabinets, couches, etc.  
Library Seating - tables, chairs, benches, etc.

Technology Furniture Fixtures include:

- Electric Fireplace - in the general reading room.
- Lighting  
Wall-mounted boards - Whiteboards, corkboards, etc.  
Wayfinding Signage

This project will not utilize Sierra Madre General Funds. Three qualified companies sent their bid proposals to City Librarian Leila Regan.

Company Name	Bid Amount	Proposal Received
TSK Architects	\$25,000	07/03/2024
Yamada Enterprises	\$9,000	08/21/2024
Margaret Sullivan Studio	\$35,000	10/25/2024

According to a report by City Librarian Leila Regan, while Yamada Enterprises presented the lowest bid, their proposal did not include public meetings. It allowed for only three staff meetings for design input. Additional services or meetings would cost \$175 per hour. Additionally, their proposal does not include overseeing furniture, fixtures, and equipment installation and ends at procurement.

Margaret Sullivan Studio's proposal is only part one of a two-step process. The \$35,000 included in their proposal only covers the design development phase. The second step, which is not included in this proposal, will consist of procurement.

TSK Architects' proposal includes programming/meetings, selection, quoting, ordering, delivery, installation, and final walk-throughs. Thus, it takes a more comprehensive and hands-on approach to the library's furniture, fixtures, and equipment needs.

It has not been announced when TSK will start this next phase of the Library Meaningful Improvement Project or when the work is expected to be completed.



# Pasadena Altadena



News From Your Community For Your Community

## Black History Parade Cancelled



*Black History Festival set for February 15 with a focus on recovery*

The Black History Parade & Festival Planning Committee and the City of Pasadena announced Wednesday that they have canceled the Black History Parade due to the impact from the Eaton Fire on the community. The 2025 Black History Festival will still happen on Saturday, February 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Robinson Park, 1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave.

According to organizers, this year's Black History Festival will focus on recovery within the community amidst the ongoing tragedy caused by the Eaton Fire. "Bringing together various resources to support our community in this unprecedented time of need, as well as providing a bit of joy is what the committee hopes to provide," said Pixie Boyden, Co-chair of the Black History Parade & Festival Planning Committee. "The Altadena/Pasadena community is stronger than the current circumstances it finds itself and while it will take time to heal from this unbelievable tragedy, the Black History Planning Committee hopes to support its progress towards healing."

Performers previously registered in the parade will have the opportunity to perform at Robinson Park between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., with festival activities to follow until 3 p.m. All festival activities will be free and include entertainment, family-friendly activities, and community resources.

"Out of respect to our various car/bike clubs in the city, the annual car show has been postponed as many members have suffered damaged and/or destruction of their classic cars," organizers said. "The Black History Parade & Festival Planning Committee and the City of Pasadena hope to continue the tradition in future celebrations."

They also said that vendors are encouraged to apply but the sale of items will not be permitted this year. The Committee is seeking vendors that offer public assistance or other services free of charge to support the community needs. Food will be available to the community but not sold; food vendors who choose to help address food insecurity within our community and generously distribute food may register. Vendor applications are encouraged to apply via the CivicRec system available at [CityOfPasadena.net/Reserve](http://CityOfPasadena.net/Reserve) under the "Special Events" tab.

## City Prepares for Rain Following Eaton Fire

In the aftermath of the Eaton Fire, which recently impacted the Pasadena and Altadena foothill area, the City of Pasadena urged residents Friday, impacted by the fire, to take precautions as the region faces a forecast of potential rainfall this weekend. With the burn scar area more susceptible to debris flows, flooding, and erosion, preparedness and safety are critical to protecting lives and property they said.

**Prepare Your Property:** Residents in and around the burn area should take immediate action to mitigate potential impacts:

**Sandbags:** Free pre-filled sandbags and self-serve sand and sandbags are available today, Wednesday, January 22, at the following locations for Pasadena residents impacted while supplies last. 10 sandbags per resident with proof of residency. No contractors permitted. PLEASE check the City website with latest updates on distribution ([CityofPasadena.net](http://CityofPasadena.net))

Robinson Park (south parking lot), 1081 N. Fair Oaks, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., except on Saturday, January 25, due to a special event.  
Victory Park (parking lot along Altadena Dr.), 2575 Paloma St, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The following fire stations will have a nominal supply of self-serve sand and sandbags:  
Fire Station 37, 3430 E. Foothill Blvd., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fire Station 38, 1150 Linda Vista Ave., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Debris Flow Barriers:** Consider installing protective barriers to redirect water and debris away from structures.

**Gutter and Drain Maintenance:** Clear debris from gutters, downspouts, and storm drains to improve water flow.

**Safety First:** Rainfall in burn areas can result in sudden and unpredictable hazards. Follow these safety tips:

Use caution around any downed or dangling wires or poles. If you see a downed wire, always assume it is live. Never approach or touch any wire that is down or dangling and immediately report it by calling 9-1-1. For



Power Emergencies, call (626) 744-4138.

**Avoid Flood-Prone Areas:** Do not attempt to cross flooded roads, trails, or streams. "Turn Around, Don't Drown."

**Evacuation Information:** If officials issue evacuation warnings or orders, residents are encouraged to know the difference.

**Evacuation Warning:** This is a notice to residents that they should prepare to evacuate due to a potential or anticipated threat.

**Evacuation Order:** This is a directive for residents to immediately evacuate due to an imminent threat to life and safety.

**Emergency go bags:** Ensure your emergency go bag is stocked with essentials, including flashlights, batteries, water, non-perishable food, and medications, important documents. For more information, visit [Ready.gov/Kit](http://Ready.gov/Kit).

**City Efforts:** The City of Pasadena is actively working to minimize risks by:

Clearing storm drains and culverts in affected areas.  
Deploying crews to monitor conditions and respond to emergencies.

Providing resources and information to the community.  
For more information visit: [CityOfPasadena.net](http://CityOfPasadena.net).

## Guidelines for Swimming Pools Impacted By Smoke And Ash

The City of Pasadena issued the following guidelines Friday for the maintenance of pools impacted by smoke, ash, or fire damage. "Do not use the pool until the steps are completed."

**Restoring Water Clarity and Chemistry:** Follow the eight steps below to restore water clarity and chemistry in pools with working recirculation systems, electricity, and access to safe water. For pools in the area of the Do Not Drink Order, do not use tap water to refill the pool until the Order is lifted.

1. Skim water surface with a pool net and clean out skimmer baskets to remove all debris.
2. Brush the sides and the bottom of pool to loosen contaminants. Vacuum pool.
3. Backwash and clean the filter(s). Discharge wastewater into a municipal sewer only. Backwashing into the storm drain system (driveways, gutters, streets, storm drains) is prohibited by law.
4. Repeat steps 1-3 if necessary after cleaning the filters.
5. Check the pH value and adjust to between 7.2 and 8.0.
6. Check free chlorine level and adjust to minimum of 2.0 ppm.
7. Check the filter pressure and flow meter to ensure the recirculation system is functioning.
8. Reopen pool to bathers only when the drain cover in the deep end is visible, pH levels are within 7.2 to 8.0, and the free chlorine is at a minimum of 2.0 ppm.

A pool service company may be contracted to clean the pool. Check for their business license and experience. Pool companies are prohibited from discharging backwash to the storm drain system.

**Deck Cleaning:** Clean the pool deck and dispose of debris into the trash. Do not hose down the deck to storm drains. Minimize dust and ashes from becoming airborne by misting the deck. Then, use a stiff brush or broom to sweep up and discard. A mop and bucket can also be used for cleanup. **Draining Pools:**

Draining pools is generally not recommended. If you must drain the pool, contact the Department of Public Works' Street Maintenance and Integrated Waste Management Division for guidance by calling (626) 744-7311. In general, pool water must be dechlorinated to 0.0 ppm chlorine and have a pH value between 7.2 and 8.0 if it is drained.

**Mosquito Breeding:** Pools with standing water can breed mosquitoes. During power outages you may need to maintain chlorine manually until the recirculation system is restored. For assistance with a pool that is breeding mosquitoes contact the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District at (626) 814-9466.

## Metro Offering Free Rides to LA County Wildfire Victims



*Telephone Town Hall on Metro's Budget February 4.*

Metro announced they are modifying the eligibility requirements for their reduced fare programs by offering free unlimited rides for 90 days and additional free rides for three months to LA County wildfire victims, with fare collection resuming on January 27.

After Jan. 27 additional County wildfire victims can get 20 free rides each month for three months, with the option of continuing to participate in the future. Full details are available at: [metro.net/fireresponse](http://metro.net/fireresponse).

"Our thoughts are with everyone who has been

affected and we hope this will make it easier to access essential resources, recover and rebuild," they said.

Metro is also inviting the public to join Metro leadership during a Telephone Town Hall event Feb. 4 to discuss the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. The meeting will start at 6 p.m. There will be opportunities to ask questions live, and to learn more about updates and progress on safety, cleaning, and service. Participation will help shape the FY26 Budget. There will be pre-registering by calling on the day of the event or submit a written question or comment in advance at: [tthm.wufoo.com/forms/metro-telephone-town-hall-signup](http://tthm.wufoo.com/forms/metro-telephone-town-hall-signup).

## Pasadena Homeless Count New Feb. Date Announced

The City of Pasadena Housing Department, in collaboration with the Pasadena Partnership to End Homelessness, announced a rescheduled dates for the 2025 Point-in-Time Homeless Count.

Postponed from its original January dates due to the Eaton Fire, the Homeless Count will now take place on the evening of Wednesday, February 19 and the morning of Thursday, February 20. In addition, a supplementary count focusing on Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) aged 18-24, will be conducted on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 19.

The safety and well-being of Homeless Count volunteers remains a top priority. To that end, Housing Department staff are working closely with the Pasadena Public Health, Police, and Fire Departments to implement comprehensive safety measures for all participants.

"In the midst of our current



disaster, I'm so encouraged by the outpouring of love and support for our community, which I know will continue to spill over to our neighbors experiencing homelessness during the annual homeless count. Though postponed, we will still be ready to conduct the survey and share our cold weather kits with neighbors in need," said Dan Davidson, Homeless Count Coordinator.

For more information, please visit [PasadenaPartnership.org](http://PasadenaPartnership.org) or contact Dan Davidson and Erika Fay Gottfredson at [homelesscountpasadena@gmail.com](mailto:homelesscountpasadena@gmail.com).

## Cultural Thursday at the Senior Center

African-American classical compositions will be explored and their significance in American and world culture shared when soprano opera singer Marlaina Owens presents "African Americans in Classical Music," a special Cultural Thursday event at the Pasadena Senior Center on Feb. 6 at 2 p.m.

A professionally-trained opera singer who has toured and performed all over the world, Owens has a special passion for African-American classical compositions and is driven by a desire to champion these works. She strives to bring them to light, as they have historically garnered less praise than their classical contemporaries have.

Described as a "velvet-voiced soprano," Marlaina Owens, a native of Los Angeles, has concertized throughout Austria, France, Germany, and the United States. She has also added "2022-23 Fulbright Scholar" to an already extensive set of professional arts experiences. A singer since she was young, Owens received her Master of Fine Arts in Voice from UCI in 2019, and her bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Loyola Marymount University in 2016.

The event is free for Pasadena Senior Center members, and \$5 for nonmembers and reservations are suggested. To register or for more information, visit [pasadenaseniorecenter.org](http://pasadenaseniorecenter.org) and click on Special Events, or call 626-795-4331.

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# AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

## NEW ALTADENA DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER OPENS

*New location to provide essential recovery services to fire victims*

A new Disaster Recovery Center will be opening in Altadena on Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, from 9 AM to 8 PM and will be available to residents seven days a week. The new center will be located at 540 West Woodbury Road, Altadena, CA 91001.

Both the Pasadena and Altadena locations will be open through the end of January. However, beginning Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, the Pasadena location will be closed, and all services will be shifted to Altadena.

Disaster Recovery Center Locations  
 UCLA Research Park West  
 10850 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064

Pasadena City College  
 Community Education Center  
 3035 E Foothill Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91107

Altadena Disaster Recovery Center  
 540 W Woodbury Rd. Altadena, Ca 91001

The following agencies will be available to assist at the new Altadena location:

**LA County Departments:**

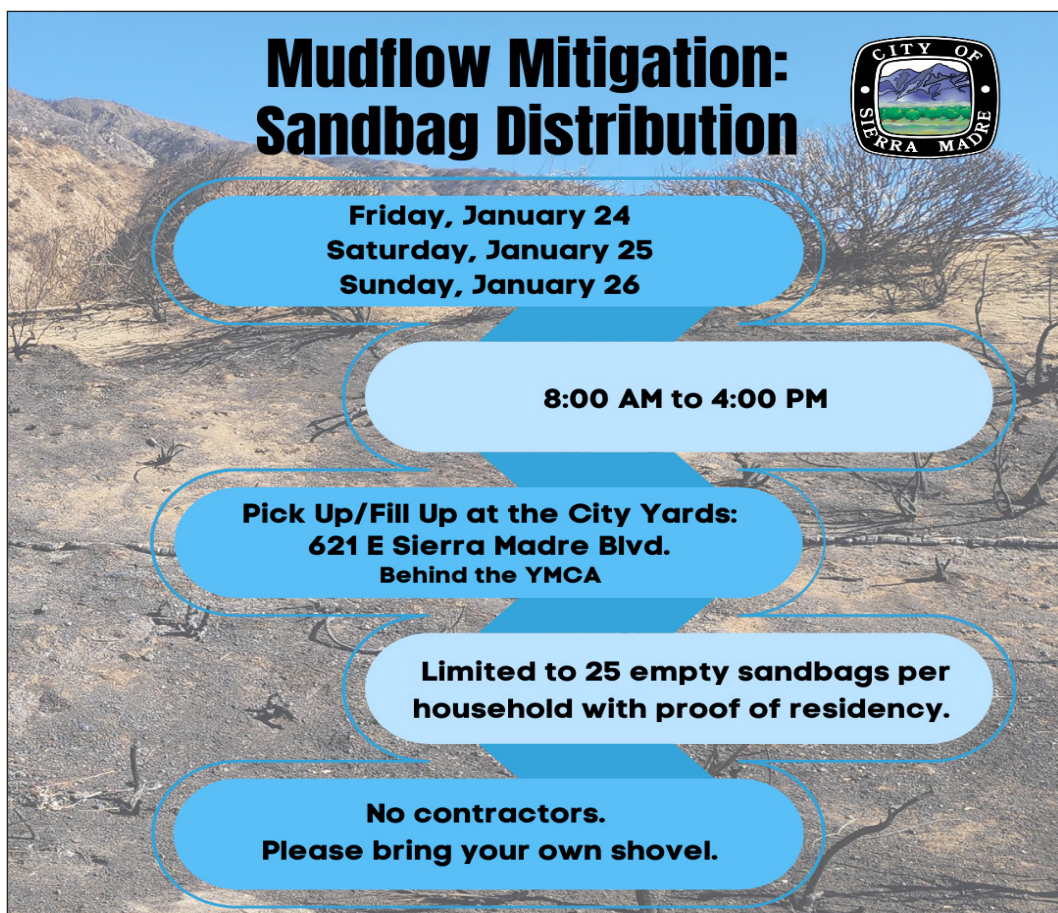
- Aging and Disabilities Department
- Office of the Assessor
- Department of Animal Care and Control
- Department of Child Support Services
- Department of Consumer and Business Affairs
- Department of Economic Opportunity
- Department of Mental Health
- Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Public Social Services
- Department of Public Works
- Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
- Department of Regional Planning
- Department of Treasurer Tax Collector

**California State Agencies:**

- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Employment Development Dept
- Department of Social Services
- Franchise Tax Board
- Department of Insurance
- Contractors State License Board
- Department of Tax and Fee Administration
- Department of Public Health – Vital Records
- Department of Veteran Affairs
- Department of Housing and Community Development

**Federal Agencies:**

- FEMA
- Small Business Administration
- Social Security Administration



**Mudflow Mitigation: Sandbag Distribution**

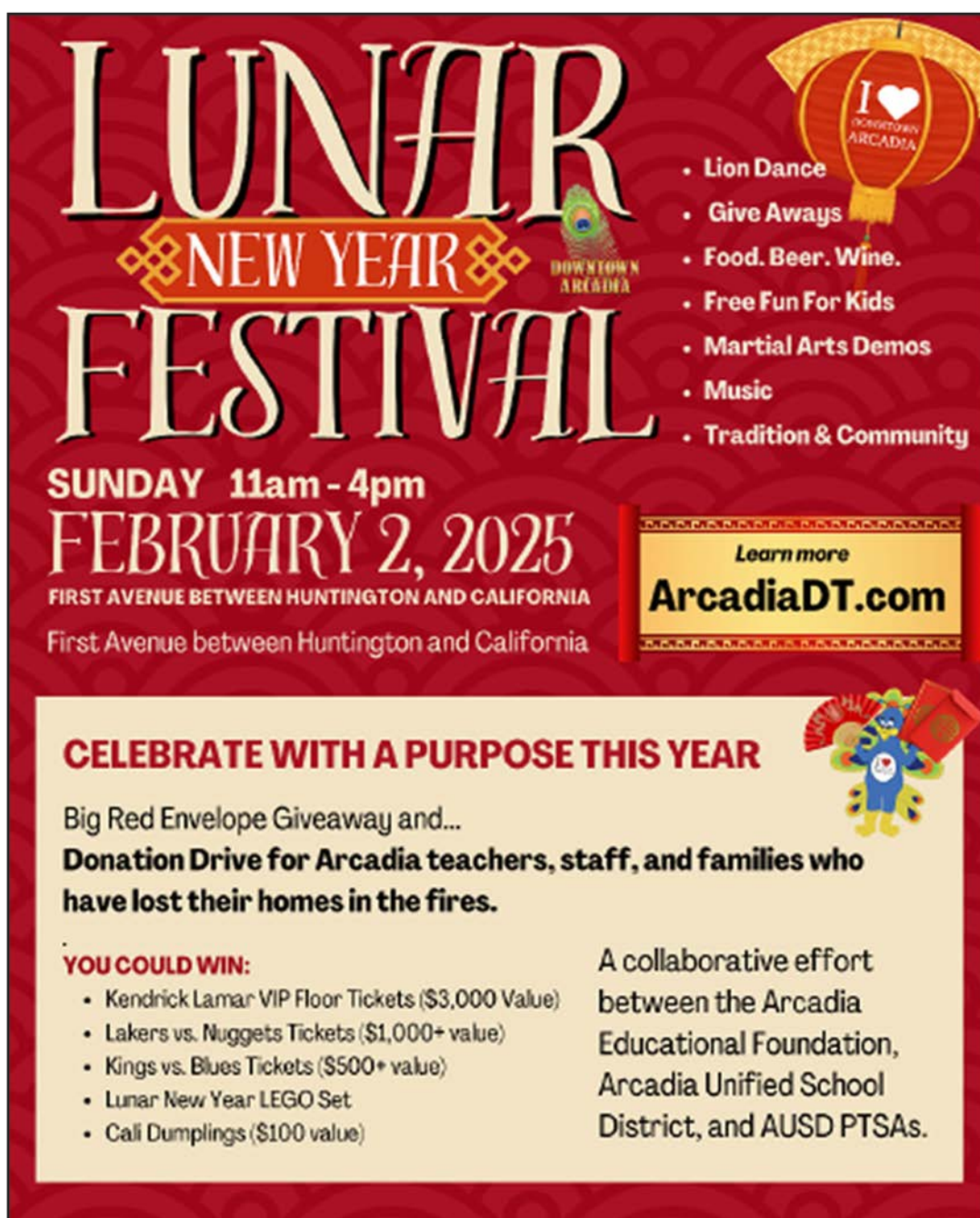
Friday, January 24  
 Saturday, January 25  
 Sunday, January 26

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Pick Up/Fill Up at the City Yards:  
 621 E Sierra Madre Blvd.  
 Behind the YMCA

Limited to 25 empty sandbags per household with proof of residency.

No contractors.  
 Please bring your own shovel.



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- Lakers vs. Nuggets Tickets (\$1,000+ value)
- Kings vs. Blues Tickets (\$500+ value)
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A collaborative effort between the Arcadia Educational Foundation, Arcadia Unified School District, and AUSD PTSAs.



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# AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

## GOVERNOR NEWSOM & ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARABEDIAN ANNOUNCE COMMITMENTS FROM STATE BANKS AND CREDIT UNIONS TO PROVIDE MORTGAGE RELIEF FOR FIRESTORM SURVIVORS

(SACRAMENTO, CA) - Today, Assemblymember John Harabedian (D-Pasadena) joined Governor Newsom in announcing 270 state-chartered banks, credit unions, and mortgage lenders and servicers have committed to providing mortgage relief for property owners in designated fire areas as a result of the devastation in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. "Our communities are hurting, and providing immediate financial relief is essential to our long-term rebuilding. I'm proud to join Governor Newsom in announcing mortgage payment forbearance through these financial institutions," said Assemblymember John Harabedian (D-Pasadena). "The work is far from done, and I'm committed to partnering with Governor Newsom, Speaker Rivas, and Pro Tem McGuire to deliver the support wildfire survivors need."

"Today's announcement by federal and California-based lenders helps provide survivors with the time and relief to address their immediate needs, rather than worrying about paying mortgage bills. I thank each of the financial institutions that are offering this help for Californians recovering from this catastrophic firestorm. California will continue working with all stakeholders to support survivors, expedite recovery, and provide relief," said Governor Newsom.

Similar to an announcement last week by five major lenders, these financial institutions have committed to offering impacted homeowners a 90-day forbearance of their mortgage payments, without reporting these payments to credit reporting agencies, and the opportunity for additional relief. One additional federally chartered institution has also joined in the commitment.

Earlier this month, Assemblymember Harabedian introduced AB 238 to provide one year of mortgage relief to wildfire victims:

- **AB 238, Mortgage Deferment Act:** Under the Mortgage Deferment Act, borrowers are entitled to request an initial forbearance of their monthly mortgage payments for up to 360 days. This bill is inspired by the CARES Act, which provided mortgage payment forbearance to those experiencing financial hardship during the COVID-19 national emergency. AB 238 will be heard in Assembly policy committees during the spring.

*Assemblymember John Harabedian represents the 41st District composed of the cities of La Cañada Flintridge, Pasadena, Altadena, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Bradbury, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, Oak Hills, Piñon Hills and Phelan.*

## POST OFFICE UPDATE

LOS ANGELES (CNS) -

Some post offices that were affected by wildfires have resumed retail services and mail delivery in areas designated as "safe" throughout Los Angeles County, while some offices have been assigned temporary pickup locations, officials said today.

Regular services have reopened at the La Canada Flintridge and Malibu Post Offices, according to the United States Postal Service.

The following post offices' retail and delivery services have been relocated where customers will be able to pick up mail on the effective dates:

- ALTADENA POST OFFICE 2271 Lake Ave., mail pickup location at Pasadena Post Office, 600 Lincoln Ave.;
- SIERRA MADRE, ARCADIA (WHEELER) ARCADIA (DUARTE RD.) EAST PASADENA (Colorado Blvd) and MONROVIA are operating on their normal schedule at press time.

The post office can forward mail to a temporary location to people who were affected. An Official Mail Forwarding Change of Address Order to reroute their mail, including packages and letters, can be completed at [moversguide.usps.com](http://moversguide.usps.com), or by filling out a PS Form 3575 at any post office.

More information about postal products and services can be found by calling 800-275-8777.

Additional retail locations can be found at [tools.usps.com/locations/](http://tools.usps.com/locations/).



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Thank you to the first responders and everyone showing kindness during this challenging time. Stay strong and know we're here to help with jewelry cleaning and insurance questions.

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### SIERRA MADRE PROPERTY PLACARDS/INDICATIONS:

<b>RED TAG</b>	Only the exterior of a structure has been inspected and found to be seriously damaged and is unsafe to occupy. Entry may result in death or injury.
<b>YELLOW TAG</b>	Only the exterior of a structure has been inspected and found to be damaged as described by the inspector. Entry, occupancy, and lawful use are restricted as indicated by the inspector.
<b>GREEN TAG</b>	Only the exterior of a structure has been inspected and no apparent structural damage was found. Any unsafe conditions should be reported to local authorities and re-inspection may be required.
<b>PINK RIBBON / POLKA DOT RIBBON</b>	Incident Management team had personnel doing primary assessment of property to see if anything additional was needed.

## AFTER A WILDFIRE - SAFE CLEAN-UP

WHEN CLEANING UP ASH:

WILDFIRE

	Wear a tight-fitting disposable respirator (N-95 or P-100).		Wear goggles, gloves, long-sleeved shirts, long pants, shoes and socks to avoid skin contact.
	Mist lightly with water and then sweep gently with a broom or wet mop.		Collect ash into a plastic bag and dispose in the regular trash.
	Wash off ash from vehicles and outdoor toys.		Inside your home, use a vacuum with a HEPA filter or similar industrial ones with disposable collection filter bags.
	Direct ash-filled water to ground areas and away from the storm drains. Don't use leaf blowers!		Clean ash off pets.

Take precautions when cleaning up ash from wildfires. Ash particles are usually bigger than smoke particles, but can still cause health problems. People with heart or lung diseases, older adults, children, and pregnant women should use special caution around ash.

## Ash During A Wildfire

### What is Ash?

- Dust that is gray or white
- Large enough to see
- Can be the size of sand or larger
- Visible in the air or on surfaces
- Contains hazardous toxics

Ash particles are too large to be detected by air quality monitors and are not reflected in the Air Quality Index (AQI) map. Although the AQI may show green, hazardous ash may be present in the air.

### If you see ash, take proper precautions:

- Wear a N95 mask.
- Stay indoors with windows/doors closed.
- Run your HVAC system, or air purifier if available.
- Don't use a leaf blower.
- If cleaning up ash, wear goggles, gloves, long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

More tips:  
[www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/wildfire-health-info-smoke-tips](http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/wildfire-health-info-smoke-tips)

## FILE YOUR INSURANCE CLAIM FIRST - THEN APPLY WITH FEMA

Insured Survivors:

If you were affected by the fires and have insurance, you should contact your insurance company and file a claim first. FEMA may provide assistance to underinsured survivors to help pay for disaster-related costs that insurance doesn't cover. If you still need help, you can send FEMA a copy of the documents from your insurance company that show the damage or expenses your insurance covers.

If your insurance settlement is taking longer than expected or you have concerns about your insurance, contact your insurance company directly and/or the California Department of Insurance at 800-927-4357 (TTY: 800-482-4833).

FEMA assistance may include reimbursement for lodging in hotels for displaced residents, rental assistance for temporary housing, partial funding for home repair or replacement, reimbursement for some personal and professional belongings and some medical and childcare. If your primary vehicle had uninsured damage caused by the disaster, you may be eligible for money to help repair or replace it.

FEMA assistance is intended to meet your basic needs. While it isn't a substitute for insurance, it can jumpstart your disaster recovery. The fastest way to apply is through DisasterAssistance.gov. You can also apply through the FEMA Mobile App, by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 or visiting a Disaster Recovery Center. For locations visit: DRCLocator. Deadline to apply is March 10, 2025.

If you have any questions about your FEMA application, support is available 7am to 10pm PST daily, by calling 800-621-3362.

**MONDAY, JAN. 27TH - SATURDAY, FEB. 1ST**  
**MON-FRI: 10AM - 7PM | SAT: 10AM-5PM**  
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**INTERPRETATION AVAILABLE** Meet with national, state, and local community based organizations collaborating to provide crucial resources and information to those impacted by the 2025 LA Wildfires.

**Pre-Register Here:**

**Available Resources**

- Financial Assistance
- Non-Perishable Food & Fresh Produce
- Kids Play Area and Free Childcare
- Wellness & Relaxation Zone
- Air Purifiers
- Wildfire Recovery Information
- And More!

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**California** Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

After **Eaton Fire**

What Can I Do to Help?

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

**FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

**To Learn More:**  
 Monday, February 3rd, at 6 PM  
 in the City Council Chamber!

## Consumer Alerts

From the Federal Trade Commission

### SCAM ALERT: QR CODE ON AN UNEXPECTED PACKAGE

By Alvaro Puig  
 Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

An unexpected package from an unknown sender arrives in your name. You open it and find a note that says it's a gift, but it doesn't say who sent it. The note also says to scan a QR code to find out who sent it — or to get instructions on how to return it. Did someone really send you a gift? Or is it an attempt to steal your personal information?

If you know it's really a gift, you can keep it. But know that the unexpected package could be a new twist on a brushing scam that could steal your personal information.

If you scan the QR code, it could take you to a phishing website that steals your personal information, like credit card numbers or usernames and passwords. It could also download malware onto your phone and give hackers access to your device.

If you scanned the QR code and entered your credentials, like your username and password, into a website, change your password right away. Create a strong password that is hard to guess, and turn on two-factor authentication.

If you're concerned someone has your personal information, get your free credit report at AnnualCreditReport.com. Look for signs that someone is using your information, like accounts in your name you don't recognize. (You can get a free credit report every week.) Also review your credit card bills and bank account statements and look for transactions you didn't make. And consider taking other steps to protect your identity, like freezing your credit or putting a fraud alert on your credit report.

If you think someone stole your identity, report it, and get a personal recovery plan at IdentityTheft.gov.

What else can you do to protect your personal information? Regularly update your computer software and your phone to get the latest security patches. And learn to recognize a phishing email or text message.

And what about the package? The law says you can keep it as a gift.

### DEALING WITH SPAM TEXTS, EMAILS, AND JUNK MAIL

If it's not scammers spamming your phone with texts or filling up your inbox with emails, it's your mailbox crammed with ads and other mail you didn't ask for. The junk messages and mail might seem endless, but there are some ways to help scale it back.

Scammers send phishing texts and emails that look legit to trick you into giving them personal or financial information. Legit companies might send mail that you just don't want — things like magazines, catalogs, or prescreened offers of credit and insurance. While these aren't necessarily scams, they can pile up quickly.

To help you cut down on spam texts and emails:

- Use filters. Check if your mobile phone has options to filter and block texts from unknown senders. Some call blocking apps can also help block unwanted messages. Many popular email providers (like Gmail or Yahoo Mail) have strong spam filters turned on by default. But if any spam gets into your inbox, mark it as spam or junk.

- Unsubscribe from unwanted emails. Getting fewer unwanted emails helps you avoid clicking on links that can lead to phishing attacks.

- Report unwanted messages. Unwanted messages often lead to scams. Report them. Use your phone's "report junk" option or forward unwanted texts to 7726 (SPAM) and unwanted emails to your email provider.

To help you cut down on junk mail:

- Register with the Direct Marketing Association to decide what types of mail you do and don't want from marketers.

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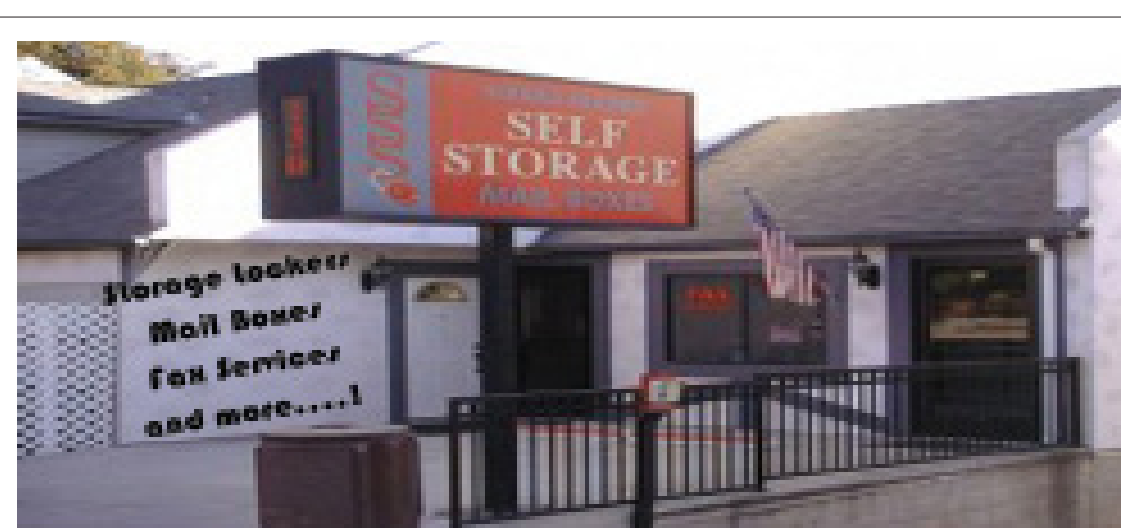
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## PUSD SCHOOLS TO REOPEN

Dear PUSD Community,

Today, we marked a milestone in our community's recovery from the Eaton Fire as we welcomed more than 3,400 students back to their campuses in the first phase of reopening. Seeing their smiling faces and excitement at being with their friends and teachers was a joy and a reminder of just how strong and resilient our community is.

A class of young students raise their hands, engaged in learning, in front of their teacher at Willard Elementary

We're prioritizing our students' well-being during this transition, and have put in place a multi-tiered system of social-emotional support, including mental health and counselors. To help students adjust after the trauma of the Eaton Fire, extra counselors are on campus to provide additional care. Learn more about mental health resources at [pusd.us/firerelief](http://pusd.us/firerelief).

Adding to the good news, today at Willard Elementary, Governor Gavin Newsom and State leaders announced a proposal to boost funding to support recovery and prevention efforts and to reopen schools closed by the fires. It brings hope to the deeply affected communities of Pasadena, Altadena, and Sierra Madre and is a crucial step on our road to recovery. This support will help us reopen, restore, rebuild, and rise, just as we have done today with the reopening of the first group of schools. Watch the press conference.

Governor Gavin Newsom, joined by Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, Senate pro Tempore Mike McGuire, legislators and local leaders, sign legislation directing \$2.5 billion in relief to support response and recovery efforts for Los Angeles.

The communities of Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre have shown resilience and unity during this time that is truly inspiring. I am proud of the way our education community has shown up for our students and each other.

As we receive this funding, speed is a consideration. We understand the mental health toll an event like this can have on our students and community. The sooner we return to a life with a similar routine as before, the sooner we can begin to heal together.

A young Willard Elementary student happily holds a video camera and microphone and stands next to a reporter and camera operator.

Thank you, Local and State leaders, for your generosity and for keeping our communities in Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre in mind as we look to the future.

In the next step of our phased reopening, all of our students will return to school by January 30, if not earlier.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Blanco, Ed.D.

Opening January 27 - 30

### Schools

- Field ES
- Washington ES
- Octavia E. Butler MS
- Madison ES
- Norma Coombs ES
- Don Benito ES
- Sierra Madre ES
- Sierra Madre MS
- Jackson ES
- Longfellow ES
- Webster ES

### Programs

- Jefferson CC
- Longfellow CC
- Cleveland CC

### Schools

- Muir HS
- Pasadena HS
- Marshall 6-12
- Eliot
- Altadena

### Charters TBA

- Aveson SL
- Odyssey
- Odyssey South
- Rosebud
- Alma Fuerte

## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno Heights Academy  
200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-3463  
Head of School: Joanne Harabedian  
E-mail address: [jharabedian@alvernoheights.org](mailto:jharabedian@alvernoheights.org)

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

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

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

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School  
Ms. Rose Navarro, Principal  
2660 East Orange Grove Blvd.  
Pasadena, Ca 91107  
626-793-2089  
<https://school.abvmpasadena.org/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

La Salle College Preparatory  
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 351-8951 website: [www.lasallehs.org](http://www.lasallehs.org)  
Interim Principal Ernest Siy

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

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

Pasadena High School  
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 396-5880 Principal: Dr. Eric Barba  
website: <http://phs.pusd.us>

St. Rita Catholic School  
322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
Principal: Jon McMaster (626) 355-6114  
[mcmaster@st-ritaschool.org](mailto:mcmaster@st-ritaschool.org)  
Website: [www.st-ritaschool.org](http://www.st-ritaschool.org)

Sierra Madre Elementary School  
141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-1428  
Principal: Dr. Jodi Marchesso  
E-mail address: [marchesso.jodi@pusd.us](mailto:marchesso.jodi@pusd.us)

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

Walden School  
74 S San Gabriel Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166  
[www.waldenschool.net](http://www.waldenschool.net)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## SMOKEHOUSE SOCIAL: A BBQ REVIVAL IN PASADENA

Barbecue in Los Angeles lately has been a gamble. Too many places promise authentic BBQ but leave you with dry meat, cloyingly sweet sauces, or—worst of all—a faint whiff of lighter fluid. True BBQ doesn't need smoke and mirrors; it needs time, patience, and a pitmaster who knows how to let the meat do the talking.

Enter Smokehouse Social, a humble but ambitious BBQ joint that's taken over the old Dickey's space in Pasadena. With its cozy beer bar, a handful of TVs showing the big game, and a laid-back vibe, it's clear this spot is about keeping things simple while delivering the goods.

**First Impressions**  
Walking into Smokehouse Social, you can't help but feel like the owner has big dreams. The space is small but inviting, with a neighborhood charm that makes you want to linger. Families share plates, friends catch up over beers, and solo diners happily dig into a rack of ribs. Whether you're grabbing a quick bite or settling in with friends, it feels like a place built for good times and great food.

**The Meat of the Matter**  
Now, let's talk about the food. The owner insists he loves every dish on the menu, but as a reviewer, I can't pull a David Copperfield and walk you through each one. Instead, I'll highlight the standouts from the feast I was served: pulled pork, brisket, sausage, pork ribs, chicken, and blue masa cornbread.

- **Pork Ribs:** These are the heart and soul of Smokehouse Social. Tender, smoky, and with a bark that will make BBQ purists smile, the ribs are an absolute must-order.
- **Pulled Pork:** Juicy, flavorful, and perfect on its own or piled high on a sandwich, this dish is a crowd-pleaser.
- **Chicken:** Moist and packed with smoky flavor, it's a strong contender for the most underrated item on the menu.

The blue masa cornbread is a creative twist that adds a touch of sweetness to balance the smoky meats. While I enjoyed it, I was too focused on the ribs to fully appreciate its nuances.

**Beer, Wine, and BBQ Dreams**  
No BBQ joint is complete without a great drink menu, and Smokehouse Social doesn't disappoint. The beer list is a standout, offering something for everyone—from light lagers to rich ambers and everything in between. Whether you're a craft beer aficionado or just looking for a cold one to wash down those ribs, you'll find a brew to suit your taste. Wine drinkers aren't left out either, with a solid selection to pair with the smoky, hearty dishes.

As I savored the meal, I couldn't help but wonder about the smoking process. The flavors spoke for themselves, but the lack of a smoky aroma left me curious. Even the servers' spotless aprons hinted at a cleaner operation than the BBQ joints of old—but maybe that's part of the charm.

And then there's the promise of beef ribs—an ambitious move in a city where few dare to serve them. If Smokehouse Social can master this BBQ holy grail, they'll cement their place among LA's best.

**Final Thoughts**  
Smokehouse Social isn't just another BBQ joint—it's a refreshing addition to Pasadena's dining landscape. The pork ribs alone are worth the visit, but the welcoming atmosphere, diverse drink menu, and ambitious plans make it a spot to watch.

Is it perfect? Not yet. But with a little more smoke in the air (both literally and figuratively), this place could truly cement its place in LA BBQ history. Until then, I'll be back for another plate of ribs and maybe a pint—or two.

**Rating:** Highly recommended for BBQ lovers and beer enthusiasts alike. Bring your appetite, and keep an eye on what's to come.  
**Address:** Sierra Madre and Colorado  
**Other details:** Tune into my radio Show every Saturday evening at 7 PM on AM 870 KRLA



## EAST OF THE SUN AND WEST OF THE MOON, WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL, DEBUTS JANUARY 25 AND 26 AT LINEAGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Recent fire events have necessitated changes in our opening date and performance times, which are noted below, in bold.

- WHAT:** East of the Sun and West of the Moon. World Premiere engagement of a new musical.
- WHO:** Book and lyrics by Kai Cofer. Music by Larry Evans. Directed by Jon Peterson. Presented by Evans Live Musicals in association with P3 Theatre Company.
- WHERE:** Lineage Performing Arts Center, 920 E. Mountain St., Pasadena, CA 91104.
- WHEN:** **Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. & Sunday, January 26 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.**
- ADMISSION:** \$32. Children, \$22.

**ONLINE TICKETING:** our.show/eastofsun  
**CONSUMER ADVISORY:** For ages six to adult. The show may be too advanced for very small children.

Performances on January 18 and 19 have been canceled. Patrons who have already purchased tickets for January 18 and 19 can have them transferred to the following weekend by emailing larry.music5194@gmail.com



East of the Sun and West of the Moon is based on a Norwegian folk tale. Karen, a young woman, is offered the chance to rescue her impoverished family from its dire straits if she agrees to become the companion of an enchanted bear for a year. Within the body of the bear resides a handsome prince destined to become Karen's true love, but the Evil Queen of the Trolls has hatched a scheme to thwart Karen and dominate the bear for the queen's own purposes. Can love prevail?

The cast includes Kristin Cortines (Karen), Christy Mauro-Cohen (Evil Queen), E.L. Losada (Bear/Prince), Christopher Allport, Aleta Braxton, Jim Raycroft, and Jini Scoville.

Kai Cofer has written the book and lyrics. Originally from the Washington, D.C. area, he is a graduate of Indiana University. He is a writer, director, actor and designer. Kai has written over 150 shows, including R.U.R., Cabaret and The Experiment with Larry Evans.

For East of the Sun and West of the Moon, Larry Evans has composed the music, and is also the show's producer and musical director. A pianist and performer, his accomplishments include creating his own themed shows (Porter, Gershwin, Broadway, etc.) and releasing a piano CD, Magnificent Movie Love Themes. He received a degree in Music Education from Michigan State.

Jon Peterson directs. The Founder and Executive Artistic Director of P3 Theatre Company in Long Beach, he brings three decades of experience directing, musical directing, stage managing, and producing. He is also an accomplished musical theatre performer and recently debuted a World Premiere cabaret show The Theatre Is a Lady.

East of the Sun and West of the Moon is a story of magic, challenge, enchantment, wonder, danger, love and romance sung by performers with magnificent voices.

Are you ready to start 2025 with a happily-ever-after?  
Credit: Todd Felderstein

## ALL THINGS

By Jeff Brown

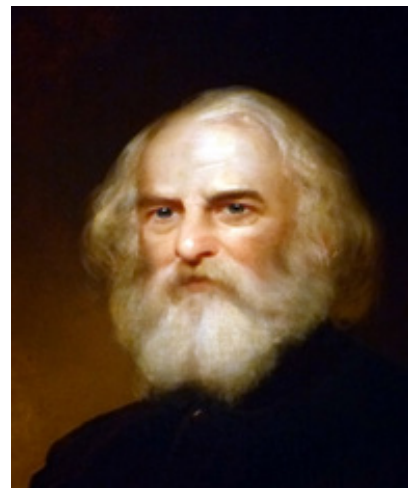
### THE RAINY DAY

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The day is cold, and dark, and dreary;  
It rains, and the wind is never weary;  
The vine still clings to the mouldering wall,  
But at every gust the dead leaves fall,  
And the day is dark and dreary.

My life is cold, and dark, and dreary;  
It rains, and the wind is never weary;  
My thoughts still cling to the mouldering past,  
But the hopes of youth fall thick in the blast,  
And the days are dark and dreary.

Be still, sad heart, and cease repining;  
Behind the clouds is the sun still shining;  
Thy fate is the common fate of all,  
Into each life some rain must fall,  
Some days must be dark and dreary.



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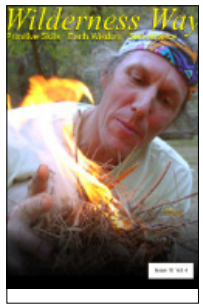
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**CHRISTOPHER Nyerges**

*(Nyerges is the author of several books including "Self-Sufficient Home" and "How to Survive Anywhere." He also leads wilderness classes every weekend. He can be reached at School of Self-Reliance, Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041, or www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com)*

**A LITTLE FIELD OF DREAMS**

*Excerpted from Nyerges' "Squatter in L.A.," book, the true story of how he lived as squatter for a year and a half. Available from Amazon as an e-book or hard-copy.*

I was living in a small cinder-block house set on one acre of wild property, located at the end of cul de sac. I often felt like I was in a universe far, far away.

While I lived there, I practiced recycling of household wastes, did composting, water recycling, animal raising, and lots of gardening.

My garden never seemed highly productive but I had a few of the tall red amaranth plants, some squash, a corn patch, some greens, and wild foods. It was probably my first successful corn patch. I didn't plant the rows of corn that you see so often in gardens and on farms. Rather, in my approximately 10 by 20 foot corn patch, I had corn more of less evenly spaced. I had wanted to try the so-called Three Sisters of the native Southwest, of corn, beans, and squash.

In the arid soil of the Southwest, the corn was planted first, and once it arose, beans were planted at the base of the each corn. The beans' roots fix nitrogen and this acts as a fertilizer to the corn. Squash was then planted as a sprawling ground cover to retain the valuable scant moisture of the desert.

I planted my corn in what had been my wood chip patch, three seeds per hole about two feet apart. Corn came up, and then I planted bean seeds. Beans are usually an easy crop to grow, but not that many came up. Who knows, maybe my ducks ate them. I planted squash too. Not a desert squash but ordinary zucchini which did a good job as a ground cover and food producer. I loved the little garden, and at night when I sat at my plywood desk with my typewriter, I'd look out my window through the several feet tall corn patch to see the lights of the city below. During the day, little birds would flock to the corn patch and eat bugs. I enjoyed the fact that this little garden that I created with my simple efforts was now teeming with wildlife. It felt good just to look at it. It provided some food for my body, food for wildlife, and food for my soul.

Not long after I started this patch – it was near Thanksgiving – my friend David Ashley came by for a visit. David had already moved into the neighborhood from wherever else he'd been living. He came up to the top of the hill where I was a squatter to pay a visit. My housing status didn't cause David to lower his regard for me.

I took David out into my garden, and we stood there talking about the mysteries and meanings of life. I pulled off a ripe ear of corn and handed it to him and picked one for myself.

"What's this for?" asked David.

"To eat," I responded as I began to peel off the leaves and hairs on my average size ear of corn. He took a bite of the sweet kernels.

"I didn't know you could eat corn raw," said David in a surprised voice.

"Yep, you can," I told him as I chewed on my sweet tender kernels from my fresh-picked cob. David began to peel his and take some bites.

"Wow, that's really good!" said David, chewing on more kernels. We stood there for a few moments, eating our corn, looking at the outside world through the stalks of corn that were taller than us. It was a quiet, special moment. We didn't say a whole lot more, just stood there eating every last kernel, and looking down at the vast city of Los Angeles as if it were Emerald City.

Eventually, David left, and over the ensuing months, I would occasionally hear David excitedly telling someone about his surreal experience eating raw corn in Christopher's little corn patch, our own little "field of dreams."

**Katnip News!****LIFELINE FOR PETS NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Our rescue is struggling. Three of our volunteers lost their homes, and several of us had to evacuate.

The ones that stayed did their best, and all the cats are okay, but we had to deal with staff shortages.

There is a post on our Facebook page, [Facebook.com/lifelineforpets.pasadena](https://www.facebook.com/lifelineforpets.pasadena), asking if people feel like they want to help.

We have a *Chewy Wish List* on [chewy.com](https://www.chewy.com) or you can send a Petsmart gift card at [petsmart.com](https://www.petsmart.com), or just donate by using the Donate button on our website, at [www.lifelineforpets.org](https://www.lifelineforpets.org).

We can use paper towels, and are okay for now with water, at least for a couple of weeks.

We also are in need of adopters, or at least long-term fosters, which would help with the staff shortages and possibly enable us to take in more cats.

People can find applications for adopting and fostering on our website, or they may email us at [info@lifelineforpets.org](mailto:info@lifelineforpets.org) for suggestions.

We don't know the long-term effects of the smoke and toxic ash on the cats or humans. Such loss. Such devastation.

Darlene Papas

**WAYS TO HELP OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS:**

-- Los Angeles and Pasadena/Altadena have phone numbers for those needing help with animals left behind in fire zones. The city of L.A.'s number is 213-270-8155, and for Pasadena and Altadena, it's 626-577-3752.

-- For those who have lost or found a pet, the city and county are partnering with Petco Love Lost, a free national lost-and-found pet database at <https://petcolove.org/lost/>.

-- Earlier this week, the Department of Animal Services and the L.A. County Department of Animal Care and Control issued a joint call for residents to help animals in need and relieve critical overcrowding at shelters by adopting or fostering those without homes. More information is available at [LAAnimalServices.com/about-fostering](https://www.laanimalcare.org/about-fostering), and [animalcare.lacounty.gov/become-a-foster-caretaker](https://www.lacounty.gov/become-a-foster-caretaker).

-- Pasadena Humane Society is shouldering a major share of the burden, housing many animals forced from their homes in the Eaton Fire. People can donate on their website at [pasadenahumane.org/about/get-in-touch/contact-us/?campaign=431108](https://www.pasadenahumane.org/about/get-in-touch/contact-us/?campaign=431108). Additionally, PHS has a "strike team" that will check on missing pets. Those who have lost an animal can call 626-577-3752.

-- Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena, in partnership with Friends in Deed Food Pantry, is holding a drive to collect pet food for victims of the Eaton Fire through Sunday at 695 E. Colorado Blvd. Contact: 626-449-5320 or 626-797-2402.

-- The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has opened a Pet Adoption Center in west Los Angeles to house the pets of fire evacuees at 5026 W. Jefferson Blvd. Those displaced by the fires can call 323-730-5300 for more information on temporary pet housing.

-- Bunny World Foundation, an all-volunteer rescue that finds homes for hundreds of unwanted rabbits from the L.A. shelters and other places, is in need of fosters and adopters to relieve the large number of rabbits evacuated from homes. To foster or adopt, contact [info@bunnyworldfoundation.org](mailto:info@bunnyworldfoundation.org). To donate, visit [bunnyworldfoundation.org/donate/](https://www.bunnyworldfoundation.org/donate/).

-- Zooh Corner Cat and Rabbit Rescue has helped animals with special needs and disabilities for decades. They operated out of their own home, which is now gone in the fire. The public can help at [gofundme.com/f/help-cat-kevin-rebuild-after-fire-loss](https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-cat-kevin-rebuild-after-fire-loss).

-- Best Friends Animal Society has two locations providing dog and cat food to the community and is accepting donations at [bestfriends.org/emergency-response/los-angeles-wildfires](https://www.bestfriends.org/emergency-response/los-angeles-wildfires).

-- A site promoting lost or found pets due to the Palisades Fire can be found at [instagram.com/palisadesfirefoundlostpets/](https://www.instagram.com/palisadesfirefoundlostpets/), where people can post a direct message if they've found or lost a pet.

-- Cleo's Critter Care in Pasadena has a wild-fire evacuation fund, and can be reached at [cleoscrittercare.com](https://www.cleoscrittercare.com). People can also Venmo them with the message "LA Fire Relief" @ [cleoscritter-care](https://www.cleoscrittercare.com).

-- The California Wildlife Center's clinic and facility are temporarily closed due to the Palisades Fire, but donations can be made at [https://30583.thankyou4caring.org/donate](https://www.30583.thankyou4caring.org/donate).

-- Donate to the World Animal Fund at [worldanimalprotection.us](https://www.worldanimalprotection.us).

-- Viva Rescue in Menifee has been helping rescue horses and other animals impacted by the fires, and can be reached at [vivaglobalrescue.org/](https://www.vivaglobalrescue.org/).

-- The Humane Society of the United States has an ongoing Emergency Animal Relief Fund to ensure animals get the help they need during situations like this. Find out more at [secured.humanesociety.org/page/82188/donate/](https://www.humanesociety.org/page/82188/donate/).

-- PETA's Los Angeles office has pitched in during the wildfires, donating supplies to firefighters. The organization has a list of local vegan businesses that have also helped out on its website, where donations are also accepted, at [peta.org/blog/vegan-love-unites-amid-los-angeles-fires/](https://www.peta.org/blog/vegan-love-unites-amid-los-angeles-fires/).

-- An easy way to help for those who can't afford donations is to eave one or more fresh water bowls outside your home for displaced pets and wildlife who haven't been able to return to their home areas.

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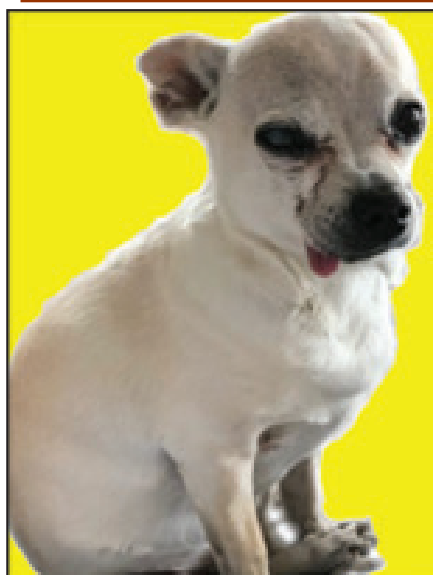
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## DEALING WITH THE GRIEF OF THE EATON CANYON FIRES

Experiencing the loss of a home due to the recent Eaton Canyon fire is especially overwhelming for older adults. The devastation has affected many in the Pasadena and Altadena areas, and the impact on seniors can be particularly challenging. However, maintaining a positive mindset and finding ways to stay resilient is essential as you work toward recovery.

## Acknowledge and Process Your Emotions

It's natural to feel a wide range of emotions, such as sadness, fear, or even anger, after such a loss. Allow yourself to experience these feelings—there is no right or wrong way to feel. It's important to recognize and understand your emotions so that you can start healing. Don't hesitate to talk about how you feel with a trusted family member, friend, or counselor.

## Seek Support and Connect with Community Resources

Reaching out for help is key to feeling less isolated during this challenging time. Organizations like the Red Cross Los Angeles provide immediate assistance, including shelter and essential supplies, and have dedicated services for seniors. The California Fire Foundation also offers financial and emotional support to those impacted by wildfires. Many local senior centers and community groups may have additional resources to help seniors affected by the fire.

## Utilize Available Assistance Programs

There are several programs specifically designed to support seniors during disasters. The Los Angeles Housing Department can help with emergency housing options, both temporary and longer-term, to ensure you have a safe place to stay. FEMA has established disaster recovery centers that provide financial assistance and other support. If you need help accessing these services, consider asking a trusted family member or caregiver to assist you with applications.

## Focus on Small Steps Forward

Recovering from such a loss may feel overwhelming, but taking small steps forward can help you regain a sense of control. Start with simple tasks, such as organizing essential documents, reaching out to neighbors or family for emotional support, or arranging temporary housing. Each action, no matter how small, helps move you closer to rebuilding your life.

## Practice Self-Care and Mindfulness

It's important to take care of your emotional well-being during stressful times. Finding moments of peace can make a big difference. Consider activities that help calm your mind, such as sitting outside for fresh air, reading, or engaging in gentle stretching or mindfulness exercises. Even short moments of relaxation can help reduce stress and improve your overall outlook.

## Stay Informed and Connected

Staying informed about recovery efforts can help you feel more connected and involved. Look for community meetings or local outreach events that are specifically aimed at seniors. Local organizations may offer updates on available resources, and these gatherings can provide valuable information while also helping you connect with others who are facing similar challenges.

Remember, rebuilding after the Eaton Canyon fire is a gradual process, and you don't have to go through it alone. There are many resources available to support you. By acknowledging your feelings, seeking assistance, and taking small steps forward, you can begin to rebuild your life and find hope for the future.

## DRIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND KNOWING WHEN TO STOP



Dear Savvy Senior,

When should someone with dementia stop driving? My 83-year-old father has some dementia issues but still drives himself around town pretty well.  
Concerned Daughter

Dear Concerned,

Most doctors agree that people with moderate to severe dementia should never get behind the wheel, but in the early stages of Alzheimer's or other types of dementia, driving performance should be the determining factor of when to stop driving, not the disease itself.

With that said, it's also important to realize that as your dad's driving skills deteriorate over time from the disease, he might not recognize he has a problem. So, it's very important that you work closely with his doctor to monitor his driving and help him stop when it is no longer safe for him to drive. Here are some additional tips that can help you.

## Watch for Warning Signs

The best way to keep tabs on your dad's driving abilities is to take frequent rides with him and watch out for warning signs. For example: Does he have trouble remembering routes to familiar places? Does he drive at inappropriate speeds, tailgate, drift between lanes or fail to observe traffic signs? Does he react slowly or make poor driving decisions? Also, has your dad had any fender benders or tickets lately, or have you noticed any dents or scrapes on his vehicle? All of these are red flags.

If you need some assessment help, hire a driver rehabilitation specialist who's trained to evaluate older drivers. See [Myaota.aota.org/driver\\_search](http://Myaota.aota.org/driver_search) or [Aded.net](http://Aded.net) to locate one in your area.

## Transition Tips

Through your assessments, if you believe it's still safe for your dad to drive, you should start recommending some simple adjustments to ensure his safety, like driving only in daylight and on familiar routes, and avoiding busy roads and bad weather. Also, get him to sign a dementia "driving contract" that designates someone to tell him when it's no longer safe to drive. Go to [Alz.org/driving](http://Alz.org/driving) and click on the "Download" button to print one.

You may also want to consider getting a GPS car tracking device (like Bouncie.com or MotoSafety.com) to help you monitor him. These devices will let you track where he's driving and allow you to set up zones and speed limits that will send you alerts to your smartphone when he exits an area, or if he's driving too fast or braking harshly.

## Time to Quit

When your dad's driving gets to the point that he can no longer drive safely, you'll need to talk to him. It's best to start having these conversations in the early stages of the disease, before he needs to quit driving so he can prepare himself.

You also need to have a plan for alternative transportation (including a list of family, friends and local transportation options) that will help him get around after he stops driving.

For tips on how to talk to your dad, the Hartford Center for Mature Market Excellence offers a helpful guide called "At the Crossroads: Family Conversations About Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia and Driving" that you can download at [TheHartford.com/Publications-on-Aging](http://TheHartford.com/Publications-on-Aging).

## Refuses to Quit

If your dad refuses to quit, you have several options. First, suggest a visit to his doctor who can give him a medical evaluation, and prescribe that he stops driving. Older people will often listen to their doctor before they will listen to their own family.

If he still refuses, contact your local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to see if they can help. Some states will automatically revoke a license when a person is diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia, while many others require retaking a driving test.

If these fail, consider hiding his keys or you may need to take them away. You could also disable his vehicle by disconnecting the battery, park it in another location so he can't see it or have access to it, or sell it.

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

## SENIOR HAPPENINGS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...JANUARY BIRTHDAYS\*



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## OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder



One of my grandchildren asked me quite a penetrating question this week. Everybody knows how perceptive these little people are, especially when they are around big people. I am all for questions and answering questions and that sort of thing. Sometimes, however, the question crosses the wrong line.

"Grandpa," one of the little people asked, "how old are you?"

I have always told the truth throughout life, which has been a great challenge. Before I was married, there was no problem about always telling the truth. I always got in trouble if I did not tell the truth, so my practice has been to always tell the truth, no matter how difficult it might be or who it might hurt.

Then I got married. Growing up I did not have much interaction with people of the opposite sex. Actually, they made me nervous every time I was around them. What do you say? What do you talk about? After all, girls are not boys.

After being married for several years, I was presented with a question I was unprepared for. We were going to a banquet and just before leaving the house, my wife looked at me and said, "Does this dress make me look too fat?"

Where was my father when this question was posed? He never prepared me for such questions.

I really did not know what to say. As everybody knows, truth can be relative, especially when you are related to the one who was asking you the question. When it comes to clothing and fashion, I am completely outclassed.

After I got over being stunned by this question posed to me by my wife, a wonderful thought hit me. I looked at her and simply said, "I don't know about that, but your hair looks beautiful."

"Oh," she said with a smile dancing all over her face, "thank you." Enough said.

Getting back to the question of the little person, I had to ponder for quite a while. How old am I, really?

I am not sure I can really answer that kind of question. It all depends upon your definition of old. When I was in my 20s, someone my current age I consider old. Now that I am this age, I understand the word old differently.

How old a person is, has nothing to do with the year of his or her birth. The one thing my father did tell me about people of the opposite sex is, "Never ask a woman her age." To the best of my knowledge, I have kept to that standard. "So, grandpa," the curious little person asked, "how old are you?"

When you have a little person whose age is still in the single digits how do they know anything about age? Most of these little people are most anxious to reach that birthday when their age is double digits. You realize that single digits only last for nine years and double digits last the rest of your life!

This little person looked at me with curiosity all over her face, when a marvelous thought danced into my cranium. I then responded, "Well, I am not as old as your grandma." For the time being, that satisfied that little slice of curiosity.

I quickly excused myself because I was quite certain the little person would approach her grandma with that question and I did not want to be in the room. With all of the fads and the trends today toward looking younger what is a person to do. When young we want to look old and when a person gets to some magical age, they want to look young. What is the right age?

Looking back over my life, I do not know any year I would like to repeat. I certainly do not want to be a teenager again. I remember those teenage years and I was so glad to get out of that age group. My 20s were not any better, except it was during my 20s that I met the person who later became the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Those were good years.

Then when I got into my 30s, little people started coming into our house. They arrived about 18 to 20 months apart and stopped when the number reached three. Three is a good number.

I certainly do not want to go back to when little people roamed the house day and night. I certainly do not want to go back to when those little people became teenagers. The roughest thing about having teenagers is that it is payback for when you were a teenager. That is why as a grandpa, I smile benignly as I watch my children trying to parent their teenagers.

I would like to remind those parents of what life was like for me when they were teenagers. It is wonderful being a grandfather who always gets the last laugh. David understood this when he wrote, "Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have showed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come" (Psalms 71:18). I am not old; I am just mature for my age.

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## STUART TOLCHIN PUT THE LIGHTS ON THERE IS NOT MUCH GOING ON



the entire inaugural process and its aftermath. My attention should have been placed elsewhere, anywhere else.

One thing I know is that other than when I worried about being drafted, I always felt safe. I no longer feel that way. Of course, the recent fires and windstorms contribute to these feelings. The destruction of friend's houses and children's schools and golf courses undoubtedly contribute to these feelings, and I have tried to counter these feelings by proving to myself that I am still able, strong, and ready to keep my eye on the ball. Recently I suffered some sort of gout attack which for a few days made it very difficult for me to walk. Today, I felt better and decided to walk a noticeably short nine-hole course without the aid of an electric cart.

Well, you can guess what happened. After the final hole I felt so exhausted that I could not imagine carrying my clubs on my back to the car after I returned the hand-pushcart to its proper place. Instead, I aimed for a bench which was near the exit and a shorter distance to my car. The bench was atop a hill, and I couldn't make it. I fell on my face narrowly missing a rock but not in much pain. Some former golfing partners have died on the nearby Eaton course and as I lay face-down on the ground that thought went through my mind.

I did not call for help, but my golfing partner a young 70-year-old Republican took it upon himself to help me up and carry my clubs back to the car. What would have happened if I were alone or if my partner were an uncaring person? Well, luckily, he was who he was, and I was able to drive to a familiar restaurant. I called my wife who appeared and chastised me for being such an idiot, but after eating drove in her car leading me home. Now I am home, but I do not feel safe.

I have now learned that there are new fires and that strong winds are predicted. What can I do? I think of my Republican friend, with whom I differ with about most important political issues. I think of my wife, needing to put up with my continuing slovenliness and my inability to keep my mouth shut. I have already alienated many of our neighbors; but amazingly she still loves me. Hooray for our individual human capacity to continue to care for others even when there are differences and conflicts.

No matter what I am determined to look for the positives in what goes on around me. I am so privileged to be allowed to draft these weekly articles. I realize today that there is no goal or objective here unless expression is the goal itself. I am not trying to convince you of anything other than the need to think for yourself. It is up to each of us to continue to pay attention and reflect upon what we have learned and try to learn more. I am very glad that I am still around and can continue to appreciate my wife, children, and grandchild. I will do the best I can for them, and for myself and vow not to attempt to walk any more golf courses or to ever play alone. I know that any partner I have will aid me if necessary because that is just the way we human beings have been created although I don't know how. It is not necessary to know all the answers but just to do the best we can with what little we know.

Let's wait and see and check out what's happening next week. If you can't do it alone there will always be someone around to help.



## HOWARD Hays As I See It

*"This is just the beginning." – Eric Trump*

No, Eric's not referring to his father becoming the only felon ever to be inaugurated as President of the United States. Context to come

later.

Donald Trump has this notion that rather than an affirmation of our democracy, an inauguration should be an exaltation of Donald Trump (while trashing everyone else). One of his first Executive Orders as president was that flags were not to be flown at half-staff honoring a predecessor in the office, as that might detract from the honoring of himself.

Previous inaugural addresses included some reference to God as bestowing blessings on our country. In his, Trump asserted that having escaped a bullet with a grazed ear, the role of God has been the anointment of Donald Trump.

His Inaugural Address was full of made-up stuff. He intends to "tax foreign countries". We don't tax foreign countries. He said he'd "revoke the electric vehicle mandate". There is no electric vehicle mandate. What he wants is to remove fuel efficiency standards, which have been around for fifty years.

He'll "bring law and order back to our cities". Violent crime dropped under President Biden. Following his address, Trump pardoned 1,500 thugs who stormed our Capitol, threatened our representatives, attacked and injured 150 law enforcement officers, smeared their poop on the walls and caused millions in damage. Any call to "back the blue" from Republicans giving Trump a pass on this can't be taken seriously.

He again claimed the 2020 election had been "rigged" and that the House January 6 Committee "destroyed all evidence". That evidence has been available online.

There were calls to "drill, baby, drill" in response

to "a national energy emergency". Oil production is now at an all-time high; the highest of any country in the world.

Trump claimed our recent fires burned "without a token of defense". 7,500 California firefighters and emergency personnel, along with nearly as many from nine other states, Canada and Mexico, risked their lives defending us from these fires. I wonder how they reacted to that comment.

In a flurry of Executive Orders, Trump pulled us out of the World Health Organization and the Paris Climate Agreement (again). This as the Coronavirus pandemic and climate-related natural disasters are still fresh in memory (our own fires still smoldering).

There's no sense of actual science. Trump's order that transgender folks be erased by presidential decree states that sex is to be determined by what it is "at conception". (The term "gender" is now forbidden.) There's no identifiable "sex" at conception; that distinction only appears maybe seven weeks into the pregnancy. There's no sense of irony, either – this order's title, "Defending Women . . .", coming from an administration having to defend itself against allegations of sexual abuse.

Trump ordered a halt to spending on Biden's Infrastructure Act – with projects already well underway (especially in red states) on roads, bridges, electric grids, etc. He can't accept Biden's having accomplished things he himself never could, so now wants to again promise us his own "Infrastructure Week". He's ordered reversals on Biden's actions lowering healthcare costs, in particular those for prescription drugs.

He's testing the Supreme Court; confident they'll simply disregard the Fourteenth Amendment on his behalf in rescinding birthright citizenship. Trump declared a "National Emergency" at our border. Illegal crossings by the end of Biden's term had fallen significantly from when he took office, but Trump wants to test an entitlement to deploy our military whenever and wherever he wants –

## RICH JOHNSON NOW THAT'S RICH PRESIDENTIAL QUIRKS, TALENTS AND HABITS



Okay, does everyone have their notebooks ready? We need to document the activities of our new President. Remember to buy a red spiral notebook if you are a conservative, and a blue spiral notebook if you are a liberal. I will collect them in summer of 2028.

Figuring it would be good if we have a benchmark to compare our newest Presidents' "odd" quirks, hidden talents and questionable habits I, your intrepid investigative journalist, have made it my mission to become an expert on past presidential quirks, talents and habits. Let's take a peek shall we?

John Quincy Adams, our 6<sup>th</sup> President enjoyed starting his day with a swim in the Potomac River. Not so peculiar except for the fact he swam sans clothing. Where was CNN when we needed them? Some think Adams bathed in the river because he kept his full-grown alligator pet (Given to him by French General Lafayette) in the White House bathtub.

James Monroe chased his Secretary of the Treasury William Crawford out of the White House after a "disagreement". And by the way, our 5<sup>th</sup> President brandished a pair of hot fireplace tongs as he ran after Mr. Crawford.

Benjamin Harrison, our 23<sup>rd</sup> President was the first president to have electricity in the White House. You wouldn't know it going over there in the evening. President Ben had a desperate fear of light switches so nobody was permitted to throw the switch during his administration.

One of my presidential namesakes, Andrew Johnson (Lincoln's successor) made a living as a tailor before he ascended to the White House. Even as president he insisted on making his own clothing.

Teddy Roosevelt favorite family group activity while occupying 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue was stilting. Yep, Teddy was 5'10" so it wasn't a height fetish. His whole family had stilts which they would all use while "stilting" their way up and down the halls of the White House. Go figure!

Apparently President Herbert Hoover was very, very shy. Herb and his wife, Lou, didn't want the White House staff to ever see them. If any staff member heard the Hoover's approaching they were instructed to jump into the nearest closet or behind some bushes.

My other counterpart in the White House, President Lyndon Johnson (LBJ) was a workaholic (obviously no relation to me). LBJ was so into time management he had telephones installed in White House bathrooms. He was known to have meetings while riding the "porcelain pony" (look it up) and even had meetings while he was in the shower. It was not unusual for him to have meetings in the morning while still in bed with his wife Lady Bird. Oh, and by the way, LBJ was a DJ on the radio. The last time I looked the Texas station is still around. Its call letters are KLBJ-FM. And it is one of the Southwest's leading rock stations. Rock on Lyndon!

I want to finish this treatise on past presidents exposing a variety of hidden talents of our former chief executives. Let's start with contestant number one: George Washington was a very good dancer. And the life of the party at countless parties and balls. Don't know where Martha was as it was said he often had a new leading lady on his arm (I'm sure they were cousins or nieces).

Hobbies are good things...mostly. Andrew Jackson had a hobby. He was a master of duels. Our presidential gunslinger is said to have fought up to 100 duels. And yes, he was shot multiple times. Before he was president, he actually killed a guy in a duel after the guy cheated on a horse bet and insulted Jackson's wife. Apparently it wasn't illegal back then.

President Franklin Pierce had a super memory. He was the first president to recite his inaugural address from memory...all 3,319 words. Not a single notecard. President Garfield was ambidextrous. He could write with both hands at once. One display of his prowess had him write in Greek with one hand, and Latin with the other.

Two that come close to home were Warren Harding and Herbert Hoover. President Harding claimed he could play almost every musical instrument but specialized in the tuba. While in office the President could be seen picking up a tuba to join in the Marine Band's rehearsals. Who's gonna tell him no? Finally Herbert Hoover was a songwriter. Just like me. Herb was immortalized in the Broadway musical "Annie". Song #5 was entitled, "We'd Like to Thank You, Herbert Hoover". Finally, it's said, while in his 20's, President Hoover wrote a love song for an Australian barmaid. Apparently, the song is now displayed at the Australian hotel where they met.

I hope and pray those of you who have suffered loss in the fires is being well taken care of. We are community.

regardless of whatever legal and/or Constitutional restrictions.

Now for the context of the opening quote: Days before the inauguration, a new meme coin dropped, traded over the Solana blockchain, called "\$TRUMP". Within a couple days, it comprised some 89% of the president's net worth at \$56 billion - on paper. Here's where Eric Trump proclaimed, "This is just the beginning".

Then the incoming First Lady issued her own meme coin, \$MELANIA, and \$TRUMP crashed by like 40%. But it's an "asset" with no intrinsic value; its own website reminding it's "not intended to be ... an investment opportunity, investment contract, or security of any type."

Erik Vorhees, founder of crypto exchange ShapeShift, says, "Trumpcoin is stupid and embarrassing". But NYU Professor Scott Galloway explains what this is all about, imagining Putin telling Trump, "We're thinking about (aggressively) purchasing \$10b of TrumpCoin this week. Also, please cease arm shipments to Ukraine."

Anthony Scaramucci of SkyBridge sums it up: "Now anyone in (the) world can essentially deposit money into bank account of President of USA with a couple clicks. Every favor - geopolitical, corporate or personal - is now on sale".

A poster on Coinbase summed up the feelings of Trump voters who lost their own money in the grift: "I was a massive supporter of Trump, but now I feel stupid."

Seated in front at the inauguration were Musk, Bezos, Zuckerberg and Pichai of Google - with our representatives, Supreme Court justices and the president's own cabinet nominees behind. The priorities of this incoming administration couldn't be clearer.

In his farewell, President Biden warned that "an oligarchy is taking shape in America of extreme wealth, power and influence that literally threatens our entire democracy, our basic rights and freedoms and a fair shot for everyone to get ahead". And as Eric said, "This is just the beginning."



**HARD CORE**



Michele Silence, M.A. is a 37-year certified fitness professional who offers semi-private/virtual fitness classes. Contact Michele at michele@kid-fit.com. Visit her Facebook page at: michelesfitness. Visit her Facebook page at: michelesfitness.

When people think about fitness, they often focus on arms, legs, or overall endurance. However, the muscles at the center of your body are just as important, if not more so. Core exercises strengthen the muscles in your abdomen, lower back, hips, and pelvis, which work together to support your entire body. Whether you're standing, walking, or playing sports, your core is hard at work. Strengthening these muscles can improve your balance, posture, and overall stability.

But what exactly are core exercises, why are they essential, and how can you work them into your fitness routine at home, even without complicated equipment?

First, it's important to understand that your "core" is like the trunk of a tree—it supports everything else. Core muscles include the rectus abdominis (your "six-pack" muscles), transverse abdominis (deep stabilizers), obliques (sides of your abdomen), and muscles in your lower back and hips.

Core exercises are movements that strengthen these muscles. Some exercises specifically target the core, while many full-body movements, like squats or deadlifts, also engage them. However, focused core work is key to building a solid, stable foundation for your body. Without it, your body may struggle with balance, poor posture, and back pain.

Wondering if your core muscles are weak? They may be. Weak core muscles are very common.

One study (Mistry, I., et al., 2021) assessed core muscle strength in female college students aged 18 to 25. The findings showed a high rate of core muscle weakness within this group, showing the need for ways to improve core strength among young women.

According to the World Health Organization, low back pain (LBP) affected approximately 619 million people globally in 2020, with projections estimating an increase to 843 million cases by 2050. LBP is identified as the leading cause of disability worldwide, affecting individuals across all age groups.

Data from the National Center for Health Statistics (Zelaya, C. E., et al. 2021) revealed that in 2019, 39.0% of U.S. adults experienced back pain in the past three months. The prevalence was higher in adults aged 65 and over, women, non-Hispanic white adults, and those with lower income levels.

All this means core weakness is widespread and impacts many aspects of daily life. Improving core strength helps prevent injury, enhances posture, and makes movement easier. Balance and stability are improved, which reduces the risk of falls. Your back endures less strain because you're able to sit and stand with proper alignment. If you're athletic working on developing a strong core will enhance your power for sports and activities, from running to swimming. Even doing everyday activities can be less difficult. Core muscles engage when bending, lifting, or twisting—making daily life easier.

Can you do core exercises at home? Absolutely. No need for fancy equipment either. Here are some simple and popular moves to try:

1. Plank
  - Lie face down, then lift your body onto your forearms and toes.
  - Keep your body straight from head to heels.
  - Tighten your stomach muscles and hold for 20-30 seconds. Gradually increase as you get stronger.
2. Sit-Ups or Crunches
  - Lie on your back with your knees bent and feet flat.
  - Cross your arms over your chest or place hands behind your head.
  - Lift your shoulders off the floor by engaging your abs, then lower slowly.
3. Bird-Dog
  - Start on hands and knees.
  - Extend your right arm forward and left leg back, keeping balance.
  - Hold briefly, then switch sides.
4. Russian Twists
  - Sit with knees bent and feet slightly raised.
  - Hold your hands together or use a weight.
  - Twist your torso to the right, then left, keeping your core engaged.

Remember, core exercises are only effective when done correctly. So focus on your form. Proper technique is more important than the number of reps. To make sure the core muscles are working, tighten your stomach during the exercises as if bracing for a light punch. Gradually increase reps and intensity as you build strength. Aim for 2-3 core workouts per week.

Strengthening your core improves posture, balance, and overall physical health. It reduces the risk of injury and makes everyday movements easier. You don't need a gym. Just strive for consistency, good form, and a bit of motivation. With regular practice, you'll feel stronger, more confident, and better prepared for whatever life throws your way. So what are you waiting for? Start building a stronger core today!

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## What Needs to Happen Before You Can Return to Your Property?

Los Angeles County, along with local, state, and federal partners, is working tirelessly to ensure areas affected by the Eaton Fire are safe for residents to return. Here's what must happen before your community is ready for repopulation:

- Fire hot spots must be fully extinguished.
- Urban Search and Rescue operations need to be completed.
- Roads must be cleared of hazards, such as downed power lines, fallen trees, and broken glass.
- Streets and road infrastructure must be repaired and deemed safe for travel.
- Utilities, including water, electricity, gas, and sewer systems, must be inspected to ensure they are safe.
- Homes and other structures must be evaluated for fire damage, structural weaknesses, and potential for collapse.
- A Red-Tagged building means it is unsafe and cannot be entered.
- A Yellow-Tagged building means some areas may be safe but only for limited use or specific purposes.





## January Events Around Town!

Brought to you by Sue Cook

### One Time Events

**January 1**  
**Tournament of Roses 2025 "Best Day Ever"**  
The iconic New Year's parade features designed floats, equestrian units, bands, and more. 8 am

**January 1**  
**Rose Bowl Game** - College Football Playoff between Ohio State and Oregon. 1 pm

**January 2**  
**Rose Bowl Holiday Tours** - Explore this National Historic Landmark. See the 1922 locker rooms, the Court of Champions and much more.

**January 4**  
**Camellia Walking Tour at Descanso Gardens**  
Learn about Descanso's camellia collections of rare and exotic camellias. 9:00 - 10:00 am

**January 11**  
**The Art Deco Architecture of the Playhouse Village** - Enjoy Pasadena Heritage's guided walking tour of the Playhouse District's notable Art Deco landmarks. 12:00 - 2:00 pm

**January 11**  
**Flower Arranging: Golden Hour at The Huntington** - Create a floral arrangement featuring orchids and golden blooms. Adults only 10:00 - 12:00 pm & 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**January 14**  
**Camerata Pacifica: Bach Inventions & Reinventions at The Huntington** - Experience high-definition chamber music with virtuosic musicians. 7:30 - 9:00 pm

**January 18**  
**Culinary Workshop: The Artistry and Flavors of Tangyuan** - Discover the art of making colorful stuffed rice balls and their cultural roots. 10:00 - 1:00 pm

**January 18**  
**Chinese Floral Arts: Realistic Style** - Explore traditional Chinese flower arranging with master floral artist Rosa Zee. 10:00 - 12:00 pm

**January 18**  
**Kingdom Day Parade "Peace and Unity. Let it Start with Us"** - The world's largest and longest running life celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King 10:00 - 2:00 pm

**January 25**  
**Pasadena Symphony and Pops at Ambassador Auditorium** - Brett Mitchell conducts the orchestra's performance of Montgomery's Starburst, Price's Concerto for Piano in One Movement, and Mozart's Symphony No. 41 "Jupiter" 2:00. & 8:00 pm

**January 25**  
**Cyndi Chao: Lunar New Year Concert at the Arcadia Performing Arts Center**  
Enjoy the soulful melodies of Cyndi Chao in an evening of romantic music. 7:30 pm

### Ongoing Events

**January 1 - 3**  
**Tournament of Roses Floatfest** - A 2-mile showcase of stunning Rose Parade Floats on Sierra Madre and Washington Boulevards

**January 3, 4, 5**  
**Jurassic Quest at the Pasadena Convention Center** - The world's largest, most popular Dino event features exciting experiences for the whole family, and includes a life-sized T-Rex and more.

**January 18, 19**  
**The 61st Winter Silhouettes Bonsai Show at the Arboretum** - See miniature trees in all their leafless glory. Includes a giant raffle/auction and entertainment. 10:00 - 4:30 pm

**January 24, 25**  
**Anything Goes at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium** - Cole Porter's classic musical romp features music theater's most beloved songs.

**January 25, 26**  
**Southern California Camellia Society Show and Sale at the Arboretum** - View hundreds of camellia blooms

**January 26 - February 1**  
**Cheeseburger Week**  
Celebrate the invention of the Cheeseburger in Pasadena. Local restaurants compete for various titles, and many will include special menu items and deals for patrons during Cheeseburger Week.

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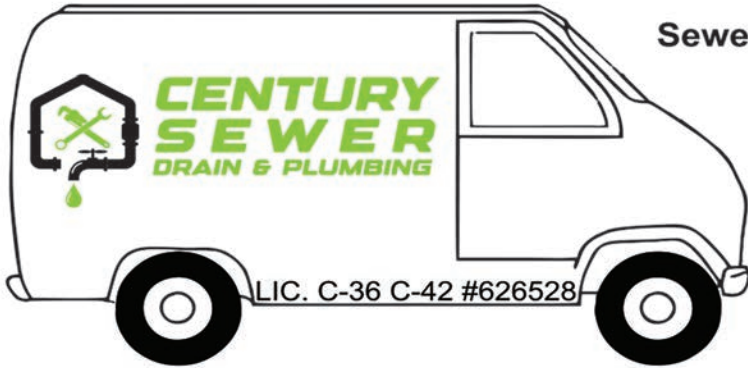
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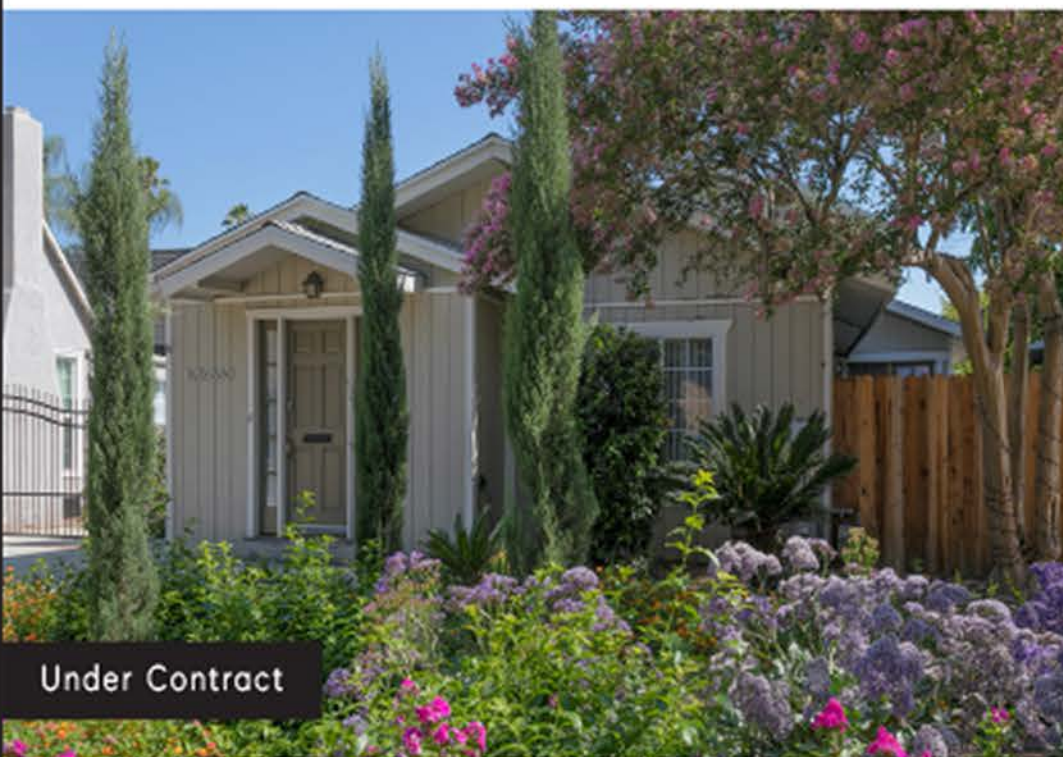
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