



# Mountain Views-Observer

Formerly the Mt. Wilson Observer® & The MountainViews Newsmagazine

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST

Saturday August 18 - August 24, 2007 Volume 1, No. 3

## 1 Carter Construction Sets Off Alarms Residents fears concerning trees, wildlife and historic preservation heightened

Story and Photos By Susan Henderson

On Thursday morning, residents who live close to the controversial 1 Carter development were startled to hear the sounds of what many believed to be the destruction of an historical landmark. One of the two pilasters that border the road leading to the property was being dismantled. (A pilaster is, according to the dictionary, "an upright architectural member that is rectangular in plan and is structurally a pier but architecturally treated as a column and that usually projects a third of its width or less from the wall".) While the wall that the 1 Carter pilasters belonged to are gone, their existence, along with two homes on the site, have been deemed historical fixtures in Sierra Madre and are to be protected under the terms and conditions of the construction permits were granted for the development.

The builder for the 27 luxury homes on the site is John Laing Homes. Site manager, "Hoppy" indicated that the pilaster was being dismantled and would be replaced. "We have to move this pillar so that we can make the necessary changes to the street alignment as required by the city of Sierra Madre. Hoppy point towards the object

which had been partially deconstructed on the east side of the entryway. He also said that the actual stones were carefully numbered so that they could be replaced in their exact positions when restored. It was clear, upon further examination, that care had been taken to only break up the mortar surrounding the historic rocks.

The plan is to dismantle the pillar, make the necessary improvements to the road, and restore the pilaster to its original condition. In order to do that, however, the original mortar that currently holds the rocks together will be destroyed.

When asked whether or not the historical integrity of the structure could be retained under that scenario, Sierra Madre Director of Public Works, Bruce Inman, wasn't certain. "I do know that when the permits were issued one of the conditions was that they preserve the pilasters and two historical buildings on the (continued pg. 3)



The entrance to the 1 Carter is bordered by two pilasters that have been deemed historical landmarks. (above) The picture on the left shows where workers have begun dismantling the pillar in order to correct the street alignment. The inset shows the numbering of the stones to assist with the restoration



Also to the dismay of neighbors is the destruction of trees as seen above. The grading and development has also driven away the wildlife indigenous to the area.

## Trial Delay for Memorial Park Stabbing Defendants

The attempted murder trial of the alleged master mind of last year's Memorial Park stabbing, Ryan Swender, has been postponed until October, 2007. Swender, 18 of Sierra Madre, along with co-defendants Marvin Chang, 19 and Richfield Chang, 24, were scheduled to stand trial on August 13, 2007. However, the attorney for Marvin Chang announced to LA Superior Court Judge Leslie Brown that he was not ready to go forward. That request was bolstered by previous commitments and/or

schedule conflicts from the District Attorney's Office and at least one of the other attorneys. The new trial date is scheduled for October 10th. Swender is being held on a 'no bail' hold for violating the conditions of his \$1 million bond and defying the judges orders. Richfield Chang, whose bail is \$1.5 million, has a Department of Corrections hold and remains in custody. The third defendant, Marvin Chang who turned 19 in April while in jail awaiting trial, has a \$1.05 million Bail and also remains in custody. Swender, will turn 19 behind bars in September. incident. All are charged with attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon.

In December, 2006, according to testimony at the preliminary hearing, Swender summoned the Chang's, (unrelated) to Sierra Madre, for the specific purpose of beating "...all the teenagers in Memorial Park". Swender and the Changs proceeded to the park where a 17 year old Sierra Madre youth, an innocent bystander, was brutally stabbed. The young man is still recovering from his wounds. Deputy District Attorney Kathryn Ratliff expects the trial to move forward in October. "While we don't yet know which courtroom the trial will be held in, I am certain that the trial will begin in early October."

## Finance Director Spells It Out: We Need Money.....Now.

By Susan Henderson



Karen Schnaider Administrative Services Director for Sierra Madre, painted a very clear picture of what we need. Her husband, Paul is from Sierra Madre. They have one son, 3, and are expecting another son in November. Schnaider joined the city staff last year. She is a graduate of San Diego State University.

- D. Lee/MVO

Sierra Madre is unlike most other American cities except when it comes to the issue of how to fund city operations. In that regard, the city has a lot in common with cities five times its size. Bottom line, we don't have enough money to give residents what they want.

To that end, on Tuesday, August 14, Karen Schnaider the city's finance director, gave a thorough presentation to the public in an effort to answer the many questions that surround Sierra Madre's finances.

The luncheon was open to the public.

During the meeting Schnaider attempted to clear the air regarding questions on how we finance activities and certain improvements; what the source of our revenue is and how we spend what little money we do have. "The thing that I want to explain is how did we get to this process." The process she spoke of was the recently formed Ad Hoc Committee on Finance whose goal is to find new revenue sources to meet Sierra Madre's needs.

In the slide show presentation, Schnaider carefully explained to the audience the differences between restricted and unrestricted funds. In a simple illustration to explain the point she said, "For instance, revenues from water and utility taxes cannot be used to buy a new fire truck. Yes the income is there, but it has restrictions on what it can be used for, as mandated by state and federal laws."

One of the properties that has changed hands is 1 Carter, although Schnaider quickly pointed out that "we have already spent that money."

(continued page 3)



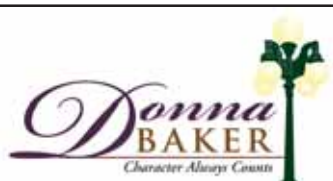
TRADITIONAL



HERITAGE



CUSTOM



**VILLAGE AUTO CLINIC**  
Domestic & Foreign Repair  
Bill Schlote  
22 E. Montecito Ave.  
Sierra Madre  
Honesty • Integrity • Product Knowledge

**Clarity in Real Estate**  
Guiding Clients to be Knowledgeable Buyers and Sellers

**Lia Schlote**  
(626) 353-3989  
lia.schlote@dlbeck.com

**Rhett Schlote**  
(626) 353-3989  
rhett.schlote@dlbeck.com

**Team Schlote**  
8 East Foothill Blvd.  
Arcadia  
(626) 840-4790 cell  
(626) 443-8330 fax  
www.TeamSchlote.com

**Dilbeck**  
CARP Inc.  
An Independently Owned and Operated Firm

# Weather Wise

## 5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2

Friday:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 60s
Saturday:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 60s
Sunday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Monday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Tuesday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



**City of Sierra Madre August Events**

18 - Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Roundup - 9:00 AM - Mariposa Parking Lot  
 19 - Concert in the Park: Elva and the Herons of Rock - 6:00 PM - Memorial Park Bandshell  
 20 - Senior Learning Session: Tax Basics  
 21 - Summer Fun in the Park: SCAT - 9:30 AM - Memorial Park Bandshell  
 22 - Address Finance Committee Meeting - 7:00 PM - City Council Chambers  
 24 - Community Arts Commission Art Show Open in City Hall  
 25 - Hearing Family Fun, 3-Park Geocaching Challenge - 9:00 AM - Santa Vista Park  
 26 - Concert in the Park: Fairytale and Fantasy II - 6:30 PM - Memorial Park Bandshell  
 27 - City Flag Order Forms Due to Community & Personnel Services Office  
 28 - Summer Fun in the Park: Creative Arts Group - 9:30 AM - Memorial Park Bandshell  
 30 - City Hall Closed

### BARGAIN BOOKS TABLE AT SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY

#### "Fall Into" A Good Book

The Friends of the SM Library will have a "Bargain Books Table" inside the Library August 20-25, 2007, during the Library's public open hours. Featured titles will include Fiction, Mysteries, Children's Books, Biographies, and Large Print, all in good condition. All books will be sold at the bargain price of \$1.00. The Library, located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard is open M-W Noon to 9 p.m.; Th and Fr Noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. please visit the Library's web site at [www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us) or call (626) 355-7186

Please sign up!  
 The Fire Safe Council  
 needs volunteers for the  
 Red Flag Patrol.  
 Call 355-0741, 355-7135  
 or 355-9530  
 or email:  
[smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com)



### Sierra Madre City Flag Sales

The Community Arts Commission has Sierra Madre flags available for sale. The flags are nylon 2 ft by 3 ft, with grommets or pole sleeves. They are appropriate for indoor or outdoor use. Flags are \$40 and can be ordered by pre-sale only. You can order a flag at the Sunday evening Concerts in Memorial Park or at the Community and Personnel Services Department, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Deadline to order: August 27, 2007. (626) 355-5278

### Summer 2007 Concerts in the Park Series

Every Sunday Night  
 thru August 26, 2007  
 6-8:00 pm  
 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

#### Event Schedule

**August 19:**  
 Elvis and the Heroes  
 of Rock  
 Rotary Club

**August 26:**  
 Fairytale & Fantasy  
 III  
 Southern California  
 Lyric Theater

\*This concert series is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Recording Industries' Music Performance Fund through the assistance of the Professional Musicians Union Local 47.

For more information, please contact the Community & Personnel Services Department at 626-355-5278

### INSIDE THIS WEEK

- 1** Carter Demolition Begins City Finances Reviewed
- 2** Weekly Highlights Community Notices
- 3** Monrovia Arts Walk Duarte Cancels Election Rich Johnson circa 1969
- 4** OBSERVER PASADENA: Bicycle Saga Continues Open Space Controversy
- 5** Police Blotter Fire Safe Council Tips SMEAC Did You Know?
- 6** Arts & Architecture August Rodin The Gingerbread Lady
- 7** PUSD Test Scores Trish's Truth
- 8** OPINION: Susan Henderson Steve Tobia In His Opinion
- 9** Sierra Madre Notices New Senior Transit Program
- 10** TechKnowledge Violent Video Games
- 11** Bob Eklund: Looking Up Wild, Wild West Mountain Climber
- 12** Peter Dills: Table For Two Vince Pirolli on Wine
- 13** Jeff's Pics Pat Birdall Pat Ostyre
- 14** Chris Bertrand: One Of A Kind The Jailhouse
- 15** Pros To Know
- 16** Who's In Control Boxing for the Young

### WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

#### Pasadena Farmer's Market

Every Saturday to 12:30 p.m.  
 B-B-Berries. Lili's herbs, honey, menudo & tamale stand. Bring the kiddies. PH's parking lot  
 2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

#### Café 322

Sunday Nights  
 Let's Sing Opera & Broadway  
 Pianist Danny Guerrero & Friends  
 322 Sierra Madre Blvd.  
 Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414

#### Beantown

45 N. Baldwin  
 Time for Ice Cream  
 (626) 355-1596

#### Lucky Baldwin's

21 Kersting Court  
 (626) 355-1140

#### Mary's Market

561 Woodland Drive  
 (626) 355-4534

#### The Harvey Hyde Show

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Hard-hitting, high impact sports talk radio  
 KSHP Las Vegas - 1400 AM  
 Live! from BURGER CONTINENTAL  
 535 South Lake Avenue Pasadena

Are YOU one of Sierra Madre's special  
**Pros To Know?**  
 Excellent MountainViews-Observer Rates  
 Call Julie  
 (626) 836-6524  
 Share Our Pros To Know



**Reni Rose**  
 115 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard  
 Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
 626-355-8400



**SIERRA MADRE - \$1,698,000**  
 Possibilities abound! #1: Owner Occupancy with income: live in the front home which features 3 bedrooms, 3 baths and a family room with 2,522 sq ft and rent the 2 units in the back. The unit downstairs is 1 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath with 1,156 sq ft and the unit upstairs is 1 bedroom, 3/4 bath with 1,020 sq ft. There is a 2-car detached older garage, two 2-car carports, a 2-story barn with parking for 2 cars and a workshop, a saloon and guest quarters upstairs with a 3/4 bath. #2: Income Property: purchase as income property & rent all three of the units. #3: Develop: there is a possibility of splitting the lot into three parcels - buyer to verify with the City. Reni Rose 626-355-8400

**ALTADENA - \$1,298,000**  
 Gracious 1919 Colonial with impressive detailing throughout and situated on a quiet street just 1 1/2 blocks from the Altadena Country Club. This well-maintained home offers a spacious FDR, Den, 5 bedrooms, 2.75 baths, a 2,958 of home and a 15,747 sq ft lot. The kitchen has been updated with granite counters, new appliances and new flooring. There is a sports court as well as a spa in the back yard. Other amenities include: French doors and windows, new garage door, large attic storage, circular drive in front and back of home, lemon trees and new exterior paint. Reni Rose 626-355-8400

**SIERRA MADRE - \$1,999,888**  
 Known as part of "The Janssen Legacy" this 1906 custom built Victorian Farmhouse will delight the most discerning buyer. Offering the highest quality amenities and appointments, this home exemplifies luxury with features such as: 9 foot ceilings, custom tiled moldings, wainscoting and marbles, formal entry and dining room with columns, 3 fireplaces, new kitchen as of 2003 with walk-in pantry, Viking stove, double ovens, warming drawer, convection oven, microwave, Sub-zero refrigerator, trash compactor, Bosch dishwasher and a wine refrigerator, solid wood interior doors, 13,776 sq. ft. lot with symmetrical custom built gazebo and 3 car garage. Reni Rose 626-355-8400

**SIERRA MADRE \$699,000**  
 Centrally located just blocks from downtown Sierra Madre, this home is situated on a large corner lot of 9,000 sq. ft. Home is 1962 sq. ft. with three bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths. There is a screened in porch entry featuring a rock handscaped waterfall pond. The grand living room offers a Tudor inspired exposed-beam, vaulted ceiling and is open to the kitchen. There is a sauna with a spa and a wood stove and shower. Bonus room of garage has a half bath. Washer, dryer, refrigerator and stove, all included 217 W. Monrovia Ave. Reni Rose 626-355-8400

**SIERRA MADRE \$749,000**  
 Lively traditional home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths in move-in condition. The newer kitchen offers double ovens, built in microwave, decorative sink, terrazzo flooring and white tile counters. Other features include: new bamboo floors, crown molding, built in bar, beautiful updated, central air and heat, updated electrical panel, all bedrooms have large closets with organizers, one bedroom (currently being used as a den) features French doors that open to the rear yard and the sparkling pool. Reni Rose 626-355-8400

**SOUTH PASADENA \$1,124,000**  
 This 2,681 sq ft, charming traditional home features a spacious step-down LR w/ fireplace, large bay window, crown molding, recessed lighting and dining area. There is a delightful, new kitchen w/ granite counters, new stainless steel appliances. The gracious master suite offers a fireplace, his and hers closets, French doors that open to a large tiled patio with Jacuzzi spa and a mountain view. Other features include: den off the kitchen, 5 terraces, 4 tubs, 3 fireplaces, hardwood flooring downstairs, newer carpeting in bedrooms upstairs and 1 bedroom downstairs, dual CA & heat, updated windows, ceiling fans, new paint, resurfaced patio/deck. Easy commute to USC Medical Center. Reni Rose 626-355-8400

Serving clients in the San Gabriel Valley - 85% of Reni's business is referral based. A referral is considered the highest form of a compliment and referrals of that magnitude are proof that Reni must be doing something right.

If you would like to be included in her publication, the "Rose Report" showing quarterly sold properties, please call Reni at 626-355-8400 or email her at [Renirose@aol.com](mailto:Renirose@aol.com)



## A True August Celebration

By Rich Johnson

*"I'm going down to Yasgur's farm, going to join in a rock and roll band"*  
-Joni Mitchell

This week is the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Woodstock Music and Art Fair held August 15-18, 1969 in the State of New York. It actually should have been called the Bethel Music and Art Fair as the closest town to the event was Bethel not Woodstock. I suspect the organizers didn't want it to be confused with some Lutheran event. So, instead, they called it Woodstock. And besides, Woodstock has that earthy, beads and sandals sound to it.

Anyway, they used Max Yasgur's dairy farm, actually setting up shop in his alfalfa field (I wonder how many attendees tried to smoke the alfalfa stalks that week? But I guess it never caught on.) Max Yasgur's name was immortalized in the song, Woodstock, written by Joni Mitchell who, incidentally, didn't perform there. Her managers told her appearing on the Dick Cavett Show would benefit her career more than performing in front of 500 kids in the middle of a field. (Ironically, Crosby, Stills, & Nash and Jefferson Airplane, who performed at Woodstock, were also on Dick Cavett with Joni.) Rumor has it Joni wrote the anthem while watching the 500,000 people at Woodstock on television (and sobbing for making poor choices).

You probably don't remember who all performed at Woodstock so let your intrepid columnist remind you: On Friday, Richie Havens opened the festival. Then Country Joe and the Fish, John Sebastian (of Loving Spoonful fame), Sweetwater, Incredible String Band, Bert Sommer, Tim Hardin, Ravi Shankar, Melanie, Arlo Guthrie, and Joan Baez.



Saturday opened with Quill, followed by the Keef Hartley Band, Santana, Canned Heat, Mountain, Janis Joplin, Sly and the Family Stone, and the Grateful Dead, plus Creedence, The Who, and Jefferson Airplane.

Sunday opened with the silver throat of Joe Cocker, Country Joe and the Fish (again), Ten Years After, The Band, Blood, Sweat and Tears; Johnny Winter; and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. Sorry, I meant Nash and Young. Forgive me. The Paul Butterfield Blues Band, Sha Na Na, and finally, the Jimi Hendrix Experience.

Now, you might find it interesting who didn't appear. Iron Butterfly got stuck at the airport. John Lennon was invited to appear IF he brought the Beatles. John said he couldn't but could get his Plastic Ono Band. "Pass" said the promoters. The Doors were invited but Jim Morrison didn't like playing outdoors (I think he was a vampire). Led Zeppelin didn't want to be "just another band on the bill," Jethro Tull said "No," figuring it was no big deal, as did the Moody Blues. Tommy James and the Shondells said no because Tommy's secretary described it as some pig farmer wanting them to come play in his field. Paul Revere and the Raiders said no, as did Bob Dylan, Frank Zappa and the rock group Free.

In case you were interested, 1969 was the year I graduated from Van Nuys High School. So?

Email me at [rich@versatape.com](mailto:rich@versatape.com)

### 1 CARTER (cont. from page 1)

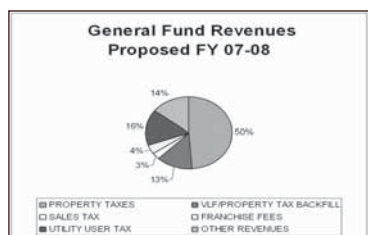
property." Ginny Kerr, Director of Forward Planning for Laing Homes said despite what appeared to be the destruction of the pillars, every effort was being made to "keep as much as possible of the original gateway." "We've consulted and hired architects whose specialty is Historical Restoration. In fact one of them is a resident of Sierra Madre."

Laing Homes is the builder for 27 homes on the site. Currently the property is listed as belonging to the 1 Carter LLC with an address at the Dorn Platz office on Orange Grove in

Pasadena. In response to questions regarding a change of ownership of the property, Kerr indicated that there are indeed plans for the creation of a new LLC which would include Laing Homes, however nothing has been finalized at this point. A search of county records shows no transfer of title from the 1 Carter group.

Several neighbors who walked by the project commented on how sad it was to see so many trees cut down. They also were fearful of what was happening to the wildlife, especially in light of the drought we are coping with.

**FINANCES** (continued from page 1) Schneider's powerpoint presentation help shed some light on many of the questions the audience asked. A few of the slides are below reprinted with the permission of the City of Sierra Madre.

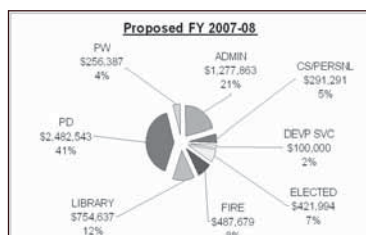


**General Fund Revenues:**

	Proposed FY 07-08	Proposed FY 08-09
PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 2,982,379	\$ 3,145,399
VLF/PROPERTY TAX BACKFILL	\$ 809,048	\$ 849,500
SALES TAX	\$ 190,192	\$ 190,192
FRANCHISE FEES	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
UTILITY USER TAX	\$ 997,776	\$ 997,776
OTHER REVENUES	\$ 873,391	\$ 846,502
<b>General Fund Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,102,786</b>	<b>\$ 6,279,369</b>

**General Fund Revenues**  
**(Detail of "Other Revenues"):**

	Proposed FY 07-08	Proposed FY 08-09
Licenses & Permits	\$ 82,450	\$ 85,399
Fines & Forfeitures	\$ 40,560	\$ 42,182
Use of Money & Property	\$ 85,870	\$ 90,870
Revenues from Other Agency Services	\$ 80,012	\$ 39,560
Misc Revenues	\$ 189,149	\$ 196,449
Transfers-In	\$ 71,250	\$ 21,250
Other Taxes	\$ 127,100	\$ 127,100
Other	\$ 197,000	\$ 203,240
<b>OTHER REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 873,391</b>	<b>\$ 846,502</b>



**General Fund Expenditures:**

RESPONSIBLE DEPT	Proposed FY 2007-08	Proposed FY 2008-09
ADMINISTRATION* (Includes Overhead)	\$ 1,277,863	\$ 1,319,700
CS/PERSONNEL	\$ 291,291	\$ 251,353
DEVP SVC	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
ELECTED & APPOINTED	\$ 421,964	\$ 414,314
FIRE	\$ 487,679	\$ 492,153
LIBRARY	\$ 754,637	\$ 774,052
POLICE	\$ 2,482,543	\$ 2,509,521
PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 256,387	\$ 287,663
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$ 6,072,394</b>	<b>\$ 6,148,756</b>

**General Fund Historical Reserves\***

\*Balances are unaudited and may change.

• Ending Reserves 03-04 (Audited)	\$ 1,834,903
• Ending Reserves 04-05 (Unaudited)	\$ 1,767,793
• Ending Reserves 05-06 (Unaudited)	\$ 1,713,152
• Ending Reserves 06-07 (Projected)	\$ 1,492,592
• Ending Reserves 07-08 (Proposed)	\$ 1,395,884
• Ending Reserves 08-09 (Proposed)	\$ 1,399,397

## SCLT Bring More Family Fare to Sierra Madre

Another round of **FAIRYTALES AND FANTASY III**, denoting the third year of this family music entertainment, is coming to Sierra Madre's Memorial Park on Sunday, August 26, at 6:30 p.m.



Sponsored by the City of Sierra Madre and by Southern California Lyric Theater (SCLT), the free concert of musical fun showcases selections from Broadway, plus operettas and several Disney favorites.

Alison Kalmus, founder and artistic director of SCLT, is also directing this production.

Bring your dinner, blankets and lawn chairs for seating on the green, and prepare to be entertained with this musical extravaganza.

## Paint 'N' Play at

### MONROVIA'S FINAL 2007 SUMMER ART WALK

The Monrovia Art Festivals Association and the merchants of Old Town Monrovia are gearing up for the third and final celebration of the Arts during the August 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 9:30 pm Summer Art Walks. This FREE Art Walk will be full of local artists inhabiting the sidewalks of Old Town Monrovia's historic Myrtle Ave. to show and sell their wares of drawings, paintings, sculpture, photography and hand-made crafts. Carve out time to join in a walking tour of Old Town Monrovia's Art Galleries, where local merchants will provide complimentary food and beverages.

New at this Summer's last Art Walk will be the exciting appearance of acclaimed painter and second generation Monrovia Artist, Joseph R. Davis at a reception at the Paint-N-Play gallery, where he be showing and signing new work. Two other local artists also being showcased there will be photographer Ambrose Martin, who specializes in on-stage photos of well known Jazz musicians, and Connie Towns, famed watercolorist whose art work will be featured on ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" set for the up coming 2007-2008 season.

Promising to provide fun and entertainment for everyone and anyone interested in all aspects of the arts, other well-known and continuing art supporters will show their work and / or provide demonstrations: **Photographers** Ken Hornbrook, Frank Zgonc, Doug Gordon, Stephen Coleman, John Houseman and Ginger Van Hook. **Watercolor artists** include, Betty Glass, Horst Albers, Setsuko Okubo, and Elaine G. Smith. **Oil Painters** Roz Newson and Luke Van Hook. Glass artist Christina Hughes. Other artistic specialties will also be found, including **acrylic** artist George Schoepke, **collage** artist Millie Havens, and **ceramist** Sal Perez. New artists coming on board are yet to be announced and the event is rallying the whole community to come out to, "PAINT 'N' PLAY"!

Young artists, ages 4 to 18, featured during the Art Walk include students from the KidsArt Art Studio, Paint-N-Play Art Studio, the Monrovia Unified School District Village Program and Monrovia High School Ceramic Department. Instructor-Sal Perez will be displaying some amazing drawings, paintings, crafts and ceramics. Their work will be displayed on the corner of Myrtle and Lemon Ave., as well as in the KidsArt Gallery (128 E. Lemon) and the Paint-N-Play Gallery (418 S. Myrtle). Additional highlights of the August 25th Art Walk include painting and ceramics demonstrations and the Family Heritage Music Festival. There is still time to participate in this event as an artist, sponsor or volunteer.

Some of the participating Old Town Merchants include: Paint-N-Play, KidsArt, Segil Fine Art, Monrovia Coffee Co., Oh My Godard Gallery, Family Festival Productions, Scoops, Stix Skateshop, Boxx Jewelers and Baldwin's Baked Potatoes, Outback Steak House-Arcadia, and Trader Joe's.

For more information, [www.artfestivals.org](http://www.artfestivals.org), or to sponsor or volunteer at this event contact: Betsy Thurmond, (626)358-7800 or [kamonrovia@verizon.net](mailto:kamonrovia@verizon.net).

## Duarte City Council Election Cancelled Again

### Incumbents File Unopposed

For the second time in two years, Duarte City Council elections have been cancelled.

By deadline time on Aug. 10, only City Council incumbents Lois Gaston, the current mayor, and John Fasana, who also serves as redevelopment chairman, had filed their nomination papers and candidate statements with City Clerk, Marla Akana.

Under the Elections Code of the State of California, if there are not more candidates than offices to be elected, the City Council can appoint the qualified persons who have been nominated. The City Council is expected to meet on Aug. 21 or Aug. 22 to formalize a resolution to appoint the nominees, in accordance with Election Code 10229.

It is only the second time since the City's incorporation in 1957 that a municipal election will not be held. City Council members Margaret Finlay, Tzeitel Paras-Caracci and Philip Reyes filed unopposed for re-election in 2005, and were subsequently appointed to their current term on the City Council.

## Under New Ownership

**CORFU**  
RESTAURANT

48 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Suite 9102  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
Tel: 626-358-7800

**Breakfast Special**  
2 Eggs any Style  
with 2 Bacon or 2 Sausage  
and 2 pancakes.

**\$3.95**

Monday thru Friday Only  
7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



# MountainViews-Observer PASADENA

## A Change of Heart; City Hall Gets New Bike Racks, Peloton Riders Pedal On

By Dean Lee

Without a fight the Pasadena City Council tabled a proposed city ordinance Monday night, for at least six months, aimed at limiting bicyclists riding more than two abreast on city streets where signs are posted.

The council also made no bones about signs that would have been posted around the Rose Bowl, stopping only one weekly group of cyclists from riding.

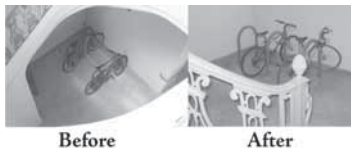
The council said they wanted more time to explore all options for the bicyclists, but not before numerous avid cyclists filled the council chambers for the last three consecutive meeting. Cyclists also met with police officials and city staff in past weeks to assist in finding a solution.



Frank Sarate of socialcycling.com address the city council at midnight over a ban of the peloton ride.

That night, bicyclists also came to the meeting to find "wet paint" signs still in place on shiny new bike racks placed through the newly renovated City Hall. Some said the timing was too coincidental, but openly welcomed the change of heart expressed in city hall.

"Change is slow and it doesn't matter if they put in a new showering facility, more bike racks or whatever, it's a life style change and most people need to be taught how to get out from driving," said Liz Elliott co-director of C.I.C.L.E. (Cyclists Inciting Change thru Live Exchange) "It



starts with short trips to the store or to rent a movie. But I think it's great. Pasadena is on its way to becoming a true bike city."

C.I.C.L.E. had been working with the city to promote bike events and, even though Elliott said she thanked the city for their support, the recent proposed city ordinance had her group worried.

"We want to continue working with the city because you can tell the staff members are sincere," Elliott said. "But had this ordinance gone into effect, we would have found somewhere

ago that no riders were willing to come forward. Mayor Bill Bogaard said Melekian had advised him that talks between his department, Rose Bowl staff, and the cyclists went very well, with many solutions being discussed.

General Manager of the Rose Bowl, Darryl Dunn, sat quietly Monday as cyclists refuted the statistics he gave to the council, citing the dangers of cycling around the Rose Bowl.

"In the 14 instances claimed as peloton accidents with pedestrians in over seven and a half years, the Rose Bowl riders have logged 864,000 miles," Safford said. "And to only come up with 14 instances, last year alone there were 86 car vs. bicyclist crashes on Pasadena streets, not in the Rose Bowl, and two deaths."

"So riding in the peloton is safer than riding on city streets," as far as Safford is concerned.

Councilmember, Steve Madison also asked that the city go back and look at an Arroyo parks master plan that included improvements to the Rose Bowl for cyclist and joggers, such as the promised, but never build, rest areas.

Last month the city's transportation planning and development division manager, Eric Shen, reported that more bike racks were coming, in addition to the ones now tucked under the city hall stairs, as part of the Landscape/ Streetscape plan, but he wasn't sure of the exact number.

else to ride. From what I was told at first, the events we have, like the upcoming Art Night Ride, would be outlawed. We are glad they changed that."

Elliott also said she found it disturbing that the very same maps her group handed out showing bike routes throughout the city would have been used as guides to ban certain types of riding.

Retired cyclist Katie Safford said Monday she would represent the Rose Bowl Ride after Police Chief, Bernard Melekian made a comment two weeks

## Speaking Japanese



The Pasadena Sister Cities Committee celebrated their 50 year anniversary Thursday with Japanese food and dance at the Boys and Girls Club. Sister Cities first began its exchange program with Mishima, Japan. The city has four other sister cities in Germany, Finland, Armenia and China.

## A Pleasant, Perfect Day for a Protest

By Dean Lee

Protesters from a number of open space advocacy groups and homeowners associations gathered outside a Pasadena nursery Saturday morning, once again, opposing utility giant California Edison's strategic plans to put self storage units along its utility corridor and displacing everything else in the path, including, nurseries, tree farms, horse stables and strawberry fields, among other things.

Present Perfect Nursery and Garden Center had been given until the end of this month to vacate the Edison owned property at 140 Kinneloa Ave that, nursery owner Alvin Toma said, he had leased for the last 18 years.

Demonstrators held signs opposing Edison's plans after some toured the stumps left by a former Christmas tree farm, down the street, evicted last year by Edison and proposed Orange County developer RHC Communities. Open space advocates said Edison had left the corridors vacant and foul so cities would welcome the storage development.

Others claimed, with a more sinister tone, that by deliberately blighting these areas the city can then use redevelopment money for adjacent projects such as the proposed relocated ice skating rink from the City's Convention Center. Under this plan, parts of the Edison corridor would be used as a parking lot.

"We found out about our situation about a year ago. It has been going on for longer than that but, for some reason, we didn't know," Toma said. "I have contacted Edison and the developer after hearing about Persson's Nursery, but they still want me out."

Last month Persson's general manager, Gary Butters, won a long time fight with Edison just days



Helping Hand: Pleasant Perfect employees hold signs protesting California Edison's plans to use its utility corridors for self storage instead of open space forcing many nurseries to close to make way for the storage units. Photo Dean Lee/MVO

before they were set to be evicted. Butters' victory came only after taking his fight to residents for the exact same reason. Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard stepped in with last minute talks that convinced Edison to grant Persson's a new long term lease.

But not before two liquidation sales that wiped out most of Persson's inventory. At the time Butters said the sales were good allowing them to now expand more varieties of plants by clearing out the old. At Saturday's rally there was no sign of any liquidation sale at Present Perfect.

"I kind of asked for the same deal as Persson's but as of now they wouldn't do it," Toma said after calling Edison. "They were very elusive." He added that since the developer had not submitted any plans to the city, "we are asking to stay until at least they do that."

Toma also said both he and Persson's had been given a six month extension, "that brought them up to July, I believe, and then Aug. 31 for us."

Open Space Now originator and spokesperson, Christie Balvin, said the city would have to rezone the corridors to allow for the storage development, something she said her group was founded to stop. The Edison land is currently zoned open space.

"These areas should not be used for commercial purposes like storage, car washes, and whatever else they have in mind," Balvin said. "And if they do this, Pasadena will again be taking a leadership position in preserving open space

land under the utilities that could have an impact throughout the state."

Toma said his two-acre nursery is family owned and serves a community of gardeners and landscapers. He also said that RHC had offered him another space in San Gabriel currently occupied by another nursery. "I can't do that, I know those guys; what they are trying to do is get rid of me."

According to Balvin, Edison's land is often located adjacent to watershed areas, which perform several valuable functions. She said most are becoming increasingly important in the fight against global warming. They are a natural filter for water percolation into underground aquifers and help deflect heat away from an already over-heated Los Angeles basin.

Balvin said her group has also made a decision to hire legal counsel to explore possibly filing a formal complaint with the California Public Utilities Commission.

Other groups in the area said they want Pasadena to restore this corridor to accommodate small lakes and a trail system as part of Eaton Canyon Nature Center.

Representatives of Pasadena Open Space Preservation, the Neighborhood Coalition and individual neighborhood associations, as well as Open Space Now, all came together for Saturday's rally.

Balvin said that, in exchange for allowing self-storage, the City would receive approximately \$505,000 to be used to offset the costs of park improvements at the City's discretion or for any other purpose determined by the city.

### GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

**Q: Are there Pasadena Foothills Non-Profit and Community Organizations with the information and resources to meet my needs?**

**ANSWER: YES!**

Meet folks from the participating non-political area organizations, each of which is invited to introduce itself to you in a group Q&A setting. Each organization will have its own time to talk about their mission, activities and resources, as well as present and answer your questions from the audience. If you are passionate about something, and there's a group that "Do" you, maybe you can volunteer and contribute some of your passion and resources to create a better solution than what already exists.

The more information people have about available services and resources, the easier it is for everyone to be part of the community self-determination process.

**This is real democracy in action - come and see if and how you can be part of it!**

**THIS EVENT IS FREE FOR EVERYONE!**

For more information contact: Ralph McKnight, VP Programs  
626-229-9344, email: [info@thepasadenacollection.com](mailto:info@thepasadenacollection.com)  
Sponsored by the Democrats of Pasadena Foothills



Member:  
San Marino  
Police Officer's  
Association

# San Marino Security Systems

Free estimates, no term of contract, free service calls  
The highest quality system at a competitive price

We protect and service  
museums, churches,  
schools, businesses  
and homes

+30 years experience

Owned and operated by  
retired San Marino Police Sergeant  
**Phil Raacke**  
Call (626) 285-7778 2384 Huntington Drive  
San Marino

Protection by  
**SAN MARINO**  
Security Systems

ARMED  
RESPONSE

**Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council**  
**TIP OF THE WEEK**  
From Caroline Brown

The next Fire Safe Council meeting will be August 13 in the City Council chambers at 7 P.M. featuring Bruce Inman, Public Works Director for the city. The topic will

The same precautions should be taken around your home. Lay your hose, with the water turned on and the nozzle off, next to where you are working. Have a shovel handy to throw dirt onto any sparks you might cause. Be sure to have this available if you are hiring the work done. Acting quickly with equipment readily available can make all the difference.

The next Fire Safe Council meeting will be Monday, September 10, 2007, 7 P.M. in the City Council Chambers. For more information contact the Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council at 355-0741 or 355-9350. E-mail: [smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com)

Do not let up on your effort to clear dry brush from your hillside homes.

Also, remember it is important to be prepared in case your equipment accidentally starts a fire. It has happened. The fire on Catalina Island earlier this summer was started by a spark from equipment being used around dry brush. Before you are given a permit to cut fire wood in the National Forest you must show that your chainsaw has a spark arrester and that you have shovels and water sprayers in case you set off a spark into the dry brush.

CREATE AT LEAST 100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE TO...  
**PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRE**

INSTALL A CLASS 14 ROOF. REPAIR DAMAGED ROOF AREAS. INSTALL SPARK ARRESTOR. CLEAR DEBRIS FROM ROOF AND GUTTER. REMOVE VEGETATION NEAR CRAWLSPACE AND ATTIC VENTS. INSTALL DOUBLE-PANE TEMPERED GLASS WINDOWS. WATER AND SHEDDING VEGETATION. REMOVE DEAD MATERIAL. PLANT VEGETATION AWAY FROM WINDOWS AND INSIDE CORNERS. REMOVE FLAMMABLES FROM UNDER VEHICLES. AVOID USING FLAMMABLE DECKING MATERIALS (check local codes).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [WWW.FIRESAFECOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.FIRESAFECOUNCIL.ORG)

Fire Safe Council

**Moe's Automotive Service Center**  
Service First, Quality Always  
Specializing in repairs of domestic & foreign automobiles

Moe's Automotive Service Center is a family owned and operated business, servicing the car care needs of the foothill communities for the past 20 years. We have ASC Certified Technicians and the latest state of the art diagnostic equipment. We offer free local pick-up and delivery. Most jobs completed in one day. Call Moe or Andy for an appointment today. *Yes - Andy is still here!*

125 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
Ph: 626.355.4714 Fax: 626.355.4724  
E mail: [Moeauto@verizon.net](mailto:Moeauto@verizon.net)

Andy

Moe

**BEVIN EUSTACE REALTOR®**

(626) 821-1213 BUSINESS  
(626) 808-7403 CELL  
(626) 447-0388 FAX  
[bevinastace@aol.com](mailto:bevinastace@aol.com)

**COLDWELL BANKER**

**RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE**  
15 EAST FOOTHILL BLVD.  
Arcadia, CA 91006  
[www.bevineustace.com](http://www.bevineustace.com)

Owned and Operated by NRT Inc

## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, to Saturday August 11<sup>th</sup>, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 256 calls for service.

### Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>

**12:45 am** – Traffic stop, 600 block West Montecito Ave. An officer stopped a car for a minor traffic violation. During the investigation a records check found the driver had a suspended/revoked California Driver's license. The driver was issued a written "promise to appear" and released.

### Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>

**8:29 am** – Vandalism, 235 West Sierra Madre Blvd. A city worker reported graffiti to the women's public restroom. The damage occurred between Monday, 8/6 and Tuesday morning, 8/7. No dollar estimate for repair was available.

### Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>

**2:20 am** – DUI arrest, Michillinda Ave and Orange Grove Ave. An officer stopped a vehicle for a minor traffic violation. During the investigation the driver was found to be under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and transported to the Pasadena jail for remand.

**11:22 am** – Grand theft, 633 W. Orange Grove Ave. A gardener reported his gardening equipment, lawnmower, hedge trimmer and a chain saw stolen from the open bed of his truck. The gardener said a large white bobtail truck with an orange front bumper was driving away as he noted his lawn equipment was missing. No estimated loss was available.

### Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup>

**4:31 pm** – Animal complaint, 300 block Wisteria Way. A resident reported a large bear had been playing in her pool and it's now sleeping in her back yard. Officers found the bear, which was estimated weighing in excess of 400 lbs. the bear was relocated by officers with the assistance of the Pasadena Police helicopter.

*Environmentally Speaking,*  
**"Did You Know?"**

## Anti-Siphon

This week's column was written by SMEAC member George Maurer. Many of you know him as one of our former mayors, but are perhaps unaware that he has immeasurable knowledge of our local water system and the various issues pertaining to it.

Are you doing your part to keep our water pure? Most homeowners are well aware that when they install a lawn sprinkling system they must install an anti-siphon device between the supply line and the sprinklers. This is designed to prevent "siphon" or contaminated water from flowing back into the main line in case of a line surge or "hiccup" in the supply source. But, are you aware that your hose can cause the same problem, should it be lying in a puddle or pond with the valve open?

To prevent this, all hose bibs or faucets should also have an anti-siphon attachment. It just screws onto the hose bib and can be done by hand and costs only a couple dollars. All houses are supposed to have these installed before occupancy permit is granted, but over the years this has been sadly neglected and may be one minor cause for additional chlorination being required. See your local hardware store for this simple device and add one to each outside outlet.

Brought to you by:  
**Sierra Madre Environmental Council (SMEAC)**  
P.O. Box 85  
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91025-0085

Your thoughts and comments are welcome...

**CANNOT LOSE WEIGHT?**  
TRIED EVERYTHING AND NOTHING WORKS?  
TRY LEARNING TO EAT RIGHT!

*New Method*  
**THIS PROGRAM REALLY WORKS WELL!**

STARTING DATE DEPENDS ON YOU  
7:00 TO 8:20 PM ONCE A WEEK FOR 4 WEEKS

**DR. JERRY MCKEE**  
(626) 792-1000

**HOMEMAID**  
Cleaning Services

**Call 626.836.8353**  
Fax 626.836.8373

**LOFT ONE-22**  
HAIR DESIGNS

122 North Baldwin, Sierra Madre

**SHERI SEMIEN** (626) 394-6691  
HAIR DESIGNS & FACIALWAXING

**CORINA GARCIA** (909) 908-4254  
HAIR DESIGNER/MAKE-UP ARTIST

**New Customers - First Haircut**  
**\$10 off if you mention this ad**

**PUBLISH YOUR LEGAL NOTICE IN THE MVO**  
Call 626-355-2737

## Arts & Architecture

By Virginia Olive Hoge



### Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) Sculpture Garden Norton Simon Museum Pasadena, CA

Anyone who loves Pasadena cannot help but feel walking into the Norton Simon Museum is like walking into a church. Walking into this museum, however, begins long before you ever reach the front door. A current exhibition at the museum talks of the man whose name the museum bears, but I prefer to just stand out front among the beautiful Rodin sculptures which are literally dancing with the sycamore trees, and silently thank Norton Simon for leaving our city this beautiful place.

Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) is overdone in L.A., it's true. The L.A. County Art Museum also has a large collection of Rodins, some of them duplicates of what is at the Norton Simon. But Rodin is such a great artist, you have to notice how his sculptures react differently with each setting in which they are placed. Inside the L.A. County Museum of Art building, for instance, they are suddenly much more psychologically present and give deep analysis into human feeling.

But at the Norton Simon, the sculptures (many are part of Rodin's 9-year project "The Burghers of Calais") writhing becomes a form of dance with the surrounding trees and therefore the expression of the body itself comes much more into play. They talk of something here, too, that is sadly universal and no, it is not something "pretty" - as the heavy ropes and pained expressions all too clearly allude to (something that, predictably, got the sculptor into trouble with his patrons).

Essential in the mix are the lovely sycamore trees (which surely are the West Coast's ginkgo tree—botanical name: *Planus mexicana*), the bright California sunlight (something we underestimate) and beauty of the design of the museum building itself, especially its beautiful surface of hand-glazed tall tiles, whose rich dark umber color goes so well with the blackish-bronze of the figures.

The tiles which cover the building were commissioned in 1966 from the ceramic artist Edith Heath and fired in her Edith Heath Ceramic Studios. Heath was known for her knowledge of ceramic chemistry and developed her own glazes and even her own clays! What a stroke of genius this was (and stands as a tribute to the architects Thorton Ladd and John Kelsey) to use a material generated by this venerated artisan, and how appropriate it was done here in this city, with our great Arts and Crafts heritage. Each separately mounted vertical tile has a slightly different color of dark umber, from purplish to hay. All together they make for a rich visual experience and I urge you to visit this local treasure frequently.



### BARBARA MORRISON AND FRIENDS: Jazz and Blues Legend at One Colorado

Fresh from her European tour, international jazz and blues vocalist Barbara Morrison will spend a month of Saturdays in the Courtyard at One Colorado. Morrison has one of the most distinctive voices in the music world. Her cool, elegant and passionate interpretations of American classics are delivered with high-class polish and grace. She and her variety of guests will bring back an era of sophistication that evokes Ella Fitzgerald, Etta James and Dinah Washington, with whom Morrison has been compared. Concerts begin at 9:00 P.M. and are free and open to the public.

**Saturday, August 11**  
Barbara Morrison and "The Bu Crew" will take you to the days of Motown with the Motown Sounds and special guests Charles Small, Ronald Bishop, Richard Taylor and Peter Buck. Get ready for a night of songs by Smokey Robinson, The Temptations, The Supremes and Marvin Gaye.

**Saturday, August 18**  
A Tribute to The First Lady of Song, Ella Fitzgerald. In honor of the 90th anniversary of Fitzgerald's birth, Barbara Morrison & "The Bu Crew" will present an evening devoted to one of the most influential vocalists of the 20th century with songs like *Mac the Knife*, *Everytime We Say Goodbye* and *We'll Take Manhattan*.

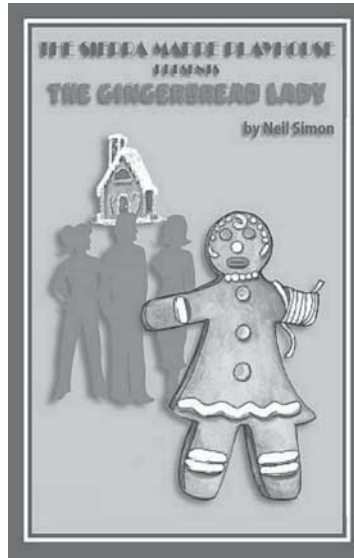
**Saturday, August 25**  
Mamma Blues. Fiveswingin' blues mommas will burn the night away. Featured will be some of California's top female blues artists.

The One Colorado Courtyard is located center-block between Colorado, Fair Oaks, Union and Delacey in Old Pasadena. [www.onecolorado.com](http://www.onecolorado.com)

# The Arts

## The Gingerbread Lady

Now Playing at the Sierra Madre Playhouse



Evy Meara, a cabaret singer and recovering alcoholic, returns home from rehab, to her loyal, but oddball, friends and teenage daughter, Polly. Polly, a child of divorce who has been living with her Dad, wants to "come home." At the brink of womanhood, she needs her mom. But as the play evolves, Polly finds herself giving more care than she receives.

Directed by Linda Rand, Neil Simon's fans need not worry. Beyond its substantive content, *The Gingerbread Lady* has plenty of Simon's humor and iconic one-liners to keep us engaged throughout.

The play runs from August 17th through September 22nd.

Fridays & Saturdays  
8 p.m.  
Sunday Matinees at  
2:30 p.m.

You can reserve your tickets by calling 626-256-3809, then pay for and pick up no later than 15 minutes before the play, or buy your tickets online at [www.sierramadrepayhouse.org](http://www.sierramadrepayhouse.org) so you can wait serenely past both line and box office.

Adults: \$20, Seniors (65+) and Students (12-18): \$17; Children 12 and under: \$12



## DICKSON PODLEY REALTORS

**Donna Baker**  
626.408.1408 • 626.487.0820  
[www.4SaleByDonna.com](http://www.4SaleByDonna.com)

**Traditional  
Homes**



### CUTE TRADITIONAL WITH CITY LIGHTS VIEW

247 E. HILLCREST BLVD. MONROVIA  
OFFERED AT  
\$629,000

3 BEDROOMS & 2 BATHS



### IMMACULATE RANCH-STYLE HOME

2152 S. BUENOS AIRES DRIVE, COVINA  
OFFERED AT  
\$980,000

3 BEDROOMS & 2.5 BATHS



### CUTE TRADITIONAL HOME

751 MOUNTAIN VIEW AVENUE, MONROVIA  
REDUCED PRICE \$595,000

3 BEDROOMS & 2 BATHS



### IMMACULATE RANCH-STYLE HOME

317 CIRCLE OAK DRIVE, MONROVIA  
OFFERED AT  
\$920,000

3 BEDROOMS & 2 BATHS



### CUTE TRADITIONAL WITH UPGRADES

732 MONTEREY AVENUE, MONROVIA  
OFFERED AT  
\$475,000

2 BEDROOMS & 2 BATHS



# Ed

Alverno, Arroyo Pacific Academy, La Salle, Maranatha, Pasadena High School, St. Francis, Sierra Mesa Middle School, The Barnhart School, The Gooden School, Field Elementary, Sierra Madre Elementary School, Bethany Christian, St. Rita's, Wilson Middle School, Odyssey Charter School, Norma Coombs Alternative School, Weizmann Day School and the PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## TRISH'S TRUTH

### It's that time again....

By Trisha Collins

Wow, summer is practically over. Was it so long ago that it was the last day of school, and you and your friends were busy planning your summer? Then, it seemed it would last forever, that there would be countless weeks of no school and pure joy. One might state, "Summer left as quickly as it came" but I beg to differ. It seems, during the school year, that it takes forever for summer to come. And when it does, it's over before it even gets in full swing. You would think that two months of no school would be enough time for a teenager to rebuild and relax, but evidently, it's not. No child, or teenager, or even adult would ever probably say that summer is too long. Most would say that it's not long enough. But then, when you think about it, no matter if summer vacation lasted 2 months, or 5 months, it would probably never be long enough to do every single thing you intended.

As I'm sure you know, school starts at different times at different places. Like, for instance, in southern California, most schools start after Labor Day. I'm in Atlanta at the moment, and two days ago, all the kids had their first day of school. When they found out that I was still on Summer Break, they were shocked and thought that kids at home had a longer summer. In the end, it all evens out, because they get out of school around the beginning of May, while we get out around the middle of June. Either way, the amount of time is generally the same.

Around this time, the middle of June, your average teenager begins to think about the upcoming school year. A series of plans and predictions go through their minds: *This year, I'm going to try out for the track team...I will become more outgoing and open...I plan on changing my wardrobe. This is the time when you go school shopping and ultimately decide what look you're going for this year. You make personal goals and decisions that will help improve your year, and make it better than those you have had before.* August, the month before school, is prep-time. Time to prepare emotionally and physically for the first day of school, because this month is all you really have left of this summer.

My advice to those for the last days of summer is simply this: enjoy. It will be over sooner than you might think. So use these last few weeks to take risks (reasonable risks, at that), spend time with your family and friends. Most importantly, don't stress. You'll have plenty of time for that when the school year actually comes.

## Drum Corps, Shake, Rattle and Rolls

For the first time in its 35-year history, Drum Corps International 2007 was held in Pasadena last Saturday, after a week's worth of practice around the area, with division II and III world championships being held at Pasadena City College, and division I at The Rose Bowl in the evening.

The Spartans from Nashua, New Hampshire, took first place in division II with an elaborate color guard complete with tarot cards and a fortune teller. At one point as they marched, they pulled out a giant sized version of the symbol "the fool," a



Ensemble and General Effect caption awards for division I and won the final show of the season Saturday night with a 98,000, making them

people came out for the final competition at the Rose Bowl. The Drum Corps also brought millions of dollars to the city over the last week, according to city officials. Parents also were pleased that most of the musicians play in their own high school bands, although none of the competing Drum corps are from any one school. Some bands came from as far away as Japan and Canada.

Drum and bugle corps are musical marching units consisting of brass instruments, percussion instruments, and a color guard. They perform in on-field competitions and parades, and for festivals and other civic functions. The prime age for participation is 14-22.



card meaning infinite possibilities.

"There are very few Drum Corps on the west coast," one parent from Portland, Oregon noted. "Most of them are from back east, so we expect someone like the Spartans to win."

The Oregon Crusaders took fourth place in Visual Ensemble and Music Brass, sixth in Percussion and fifth in all other captions, according to the official website of Drum Corps International.

Northern California's The Blue Devils swept the Brass, Percussion, Visual

the 2007 Drum Corps International World Champions. An estimated 20,000



## California Standards Test Results: PUSD Shows Some Growth in All Grades

Pasadena Unified School District released the results of the California Standards Tests administered in Spring 2007 for grades 2 - 11 on Wednesday, August 15, 2007.

There was good news in English Language Arts (ELA) where the percentage of students scoring at proficient and advanced has increased for all grades by over 10 percentage points and these gains were higher than those made by Los Angeles County and the state since the baseline year of 2001. Mathematics scores have also shown an increase since the baseline year of 2002, including all end-of-course math scores at the secondary level. The gains in math were also higher except for a few areas compared to the County and state with grades three, four and five posting over 20% increase since 2002. However, in spite of the gains math achievement remains low, especially at the secondary level. District-wide, scores increased minimally in most areas from 2006 to 2007, however there was a slight decrease in Middle School Math scores.

"Although many of our schools have seen significant growth since the baseline year, I am concerned that some of our schools and subgroups have had little or no growth, and secondary scores remain low," said Superintendent Edwin Diaz. "We must accelerate growth, especially at the secondary level, by building on our successes, spreading our best practices across all schools, and by consistently implementing our system of a standards-based curriculum, use of data and assessments, and professional development and teacher collaboration."

Double digit increases in the percent scoring proficient and advanced have

been seen at 23 of PUSD's schools in English Language Arts since 2001, while 19 elementary schools have had double digit gains in Math. Willard Elementary saw scores increase the most since the baseline year, with a 37% increase in ELA scores, and a 43% increase in Math scores. In spite of the good news, secondary achievement lags significantly behind elementary. Even at the elementary level, there is a large disparity between the rate of growth at individual schools.

From 2006-2007, 12 elementary schools, one middle school and three high schools showed an increase in the percentage of students scoring at proficient or advanced in ELA. All subgroups increased in the percentage of students scoring at proficient and advanced in ELA from last year. The greatest growth occurred at Sierra Madre Elementary, where ELA scores increased by 12%, and gains were seen at every grade level.

Other schools that experienced significant growth in ELA scores from last year include Longfellow Elementary which increased by 7%, followed by Hamilton Elementary and Webster Elementary which each increased by 6%, and Jackson which saw an increase of 5%. Wilson Middle School and Marshall Fundamental showed the biggest increase at the secondary school level, with each increasing their ELA score by 5%. Pasadena High School and Blair IB Magnet also showed increases in ELA of 3% and 1% respectively.

The ELA scores this year indicate that 50% or more of PUSD students are scoring at or above proficient at Sierra Madre (63%), Don Benito (63%), Norma Coombs Alternative (59%), Hamilton (55%), Willard (54%),

## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Arroyo Pacific Academy  
41 W. Santa Clara St.  
Arcadia  
(626) 294-0661

Alverno High School  
200 N. Michillinda  
(626) 355-3463

Bethany Christian School  
93 N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-3527

The Gooden School  
192 N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-2410  
www.goodenschool.org

LaSalle High School  
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Pasadena  
(626) 351-8951

Odyssey Charter School  
725 W. Altadena Dr.  
Altadena, CA  
(626) 229-0993  
www.odysseycharterschool.com

Pasadena High School  
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena  
(626) 798-8901

Sierra Madre Elementary School  
141 W. Highland Ave.  
(626) 355-1428

Sierra Madre Middle School  
160 N. Canon  
(626) 836-2947

St. Rita's Catholic School  
322 N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-9028

Weizmann Day School  
1434 N. Altadena Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
626-797-0204  
Lisa Feldman Head of School

### REFLEXOLOGY CAN HELP!

REDUCE STRESS,  
PROMOTE NATURAL HEALING,  
BALANCE ENERGY,  
STIMULATE CIRCULATION,  
RELIEVE PAIN, REDUCE SWELLING,  
FEEL HEALTHIER!

For Carpal Tunnel:  
MYOFASCIAL BACK & NECK RELEASE  
with REFLEXOLOGY COMBO  
IT WORKS GREAT!!!

Located in Sierra Madre  
(626) 355-3414

- GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE -  
despina@reflexology.com

### FOOTSMARTS



### REFLEXOLOGY

Lizette Arzouman  
(626) 355-3414  
Despina Arzouman  
Certified Reflexologist

www.footsmarts-reflexology.com

McKinley (54%) and Marshall Fundamental (50%).

From 2006-2007, students scoring at proficient or advanced in Mathematics increased at 12 elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. Like the ELA results, the greatest gain occurred at Sierra Madre School where there was a 12% increase in their Math scores. Hamilton followed with an 11% gain, Loma Alta Elementary's scores increased by 8%, and Roosevelt and Jackson followed with a 6% gain each. Wilson Middle School increased by 4% and Pasadena High School saw a gain of 3%.

This year's Math scores indicate that 50% or more of PUSD students are scoring at or above proficient at 14 elementary schools: Willard (75%), Hamilton (70%), Sierra Madre (68%), Don Benito (65%), Norma Coombs Alternative (63%), Washington Accelerated and Webster (55%), Field (54%), Cleveland, Roosevelt, Longfellow and McKinley (53%), and Burbank (52%).

Students scoring at proficient or advanced on the grade 5 and grade 8 Science tests continued to grow, while scores on the grade 10 Science test decreased slightly. End-of-course Science test scores at the secondary level were mixed, as scores rose for Chemistry and Earth Science, but decreased for Biology and Physics. Overall scores for Biology and Chemistry increased since the baseline year of 2002.

History-Social Science tests, which are administered to students in grades 8 and 11, both increased.

For more information and complete breakdown of test scores, visit [www.pusd.us/cst](http://www.pusd.us/cst).



# Mountain Views-Observer

## OPINION

### MountainViews-Observer

**Publisher/ Editor**  
Susan Henderson

**City Editor**  
Dean Lee

**Photography**  
Buddy Windsor  
Jacqueline Truong

**Contributors**  
Kyle McClure  
Pat Birdsell  
Bob Eklund  
Madeline Miller  
Paul the Cyberian  
Kim Clymer-Kelly  
Peter Dills  
Pat Ostrye  
Rich Johnson  
Chris Bertrand  
Virginia Hoge  
Caroline Brown  
Sir Eric Maundry  
Stanley J. Forrester

**Student Correspondents**  
Pasadena High School  
Alverno High School  
Oak Crest Institute of Science  
Grace Persico  
Trisha Collins

**Editorial Cartoonist**  
Ann Cleaves  
**Web Master**  
Gary Miller

**For Advertising Inquiries**  
contact:

**JULIE PUTERBAUGH**  
626-836-6524

**MASTROMEDIA INC.**  
626-799-7129

MVN (Mountain Views) now known as MountainViews-Observer has been adjudicated as a newspaper of General Circulation for the County of Los Angeles in Court Case number C5004724, for the City of Sierra Madre, in Court Case C5005940 and for the City of Monrovia in Court Case No. C5006089 and is published every Friday at 37 Auburn Avenue, Suite 8, Sierra Madre, California, 91024. All contents are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without the express written consent of the publisher. All rights reserved. All submissions to this newspaper become the property of the MountainViews-Observer and may be published in part or whole. Opinions and views expressed by the writers printed in this paper do not necessarily express the views and opinions of the publisher or staff of the MountainViews-Observer. MountainViews-Observer is wholly owned by MVVO, Inc. and reserves the right to refuse publication of advertisements and other materials submitted for publication.

All letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to: MountainViews-Observer, 280 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. #327, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024. Phone: 626-355-2737. Fax: 626-604-4548. email: mvobserver@comcast.net



Member

### Mountain Views-Observer Mission Statement

We honor the traditions of the community newspaper and place our readers above all other concerns. We deliver local, state and national news every week. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.



## Blind Eye

**Blind** (adj.): lacking a directing or controlling consciousness; **Eye** (n): the faculty of intellectual perception

Most of you have heard the expression 'turning a blind eye' in reference to a person's willingness to look the other way rather than witness and/or confront another person's inappropriate or bad actions. We 'turn a blind eye' sometimes when we notice our child hasn't cleaned their room; we turn a 'blind eye' when we watch our friends miscount their ages by a few years - yes, we turn a blind eye on a lot of things, most of which would cause no harm to anyone. Turning a blind eye to little indiscretions is acceptable behavior in polite society. It is often done just to keep peace and harmony. And that is perfectly okay.

What is not okay is how our government is turning a blind eye on the way our foreign trade partners, especially China, have ignored the standards we have established to keep our citizens safe. In the past few months, it has been brought to our attention that far too many of our Chinese suppliers have deliberately violated the terms and conditions that dictate the content and quality of goods produced for sale in the United States. And, our government has lacked any controlling consciousness in curtailing such activity. They've turned their heads and left us to fend for ourselves.

The really sad thing is that there has been no serious cry for an immediate halt to imports from China or for sanctions against the American companies who exported jobs to China in order to increase their profits. There has been no serious cry for a change in the way we handle such violations. No outrage, just news stories. We've simply turned a blind eye to the whole mess.

What there has been through all of this, is a lot of oozing of information to the public. Every week a little more information leaks out. Contaminated seafood and toothpaste; lead paint in toys our children and grandchildren play with; poison in our pet food; exploding tires... and the list continues to grow. And yet, behind the scenes

where manufacturers share information, the 'risk' they speak of is not the health and safety of the consumer. Their 'risk' is losing the rebates and incentives the Chinese government extends to businesses who outsource production, and have nothing at all to do with contaminated, bogus or unsafe goods shipped to the US.

American companies who are outsourcing production deliberately seek factories in China where there are no words that equal 'safety standards.' These areas have the cheapest wages and take advantage of not only the workers in China, but also those in the United States who would gladly take a job if there were one offered. And, these companies will also disavow any knowledge of danger to the American consumer, despite organized, concerted efforts to make the most money at our expense.

So where does that leave us? We are the victims of corporations who just do not care. We have some politicians who give lip service to reform, but these companies, like Mattel, are also large campaign contributors. Yes, Mattel, Inc. Political Action Committee does exist, which should help you understand why the wholesale disregard for safety and manufacturing standards are continuously ignored.

What on earth has happened to America? We don't care about our elderly; we don't care about our children; we spend billions on a 'secure future' for other countries and spend as little as possible on our own. Our priorities are out of order. We watch dog every personal aspect of people's lives, but we don't watch our own front door. What is it going to take before our leaders acknowledge and act upon the fact that we have relinquished the health and safety of our country to those whose are blinded by their own greed and avarice?

Last week I was shuddering at the thought of perhaps taking counterfeit or fake medications that had been sold in this country. This week I am worried about the presents I have given my grandchildren over the years. Did I go into Toys R Us thinking that this store was operated in a society where safety was a top priority, and deliver to my beloved grand-daughters toys that may do them irreparable harm over the years? And just who do I hold responsible? How do we protect ourselves? When will we stop being the dumping grounds for substandard, unsafe goods? Hopefully, before it is too late.

We have eyes for the purpose of seeing. In the instance of our state and national leaders, their eyes are supposed to be the faculty of intellectual perception. Perhaps therein lies the oxymoron.

## In My Opinion

By Steve Tobia

### Give Peace A Chance In Sierra Madre



When it comes to politics in Sierra Madre, watch out, because emotions and opinions run deep. This unique city of just 10,000 residents has a reputation for political bantering on a daily basis just like the daily bantering on the national level between the Democrats and Republicans. As an ardent independent, I have always commented that neither the far left nor the far right has all the right answers—somewhere in the middle lies the truth and peace.

#### Economic Realities

One of the greatest assets and virtues of Sierra Madre is the fierce independence that every resident wants to maintain by not becoming an extension of its neighboring cities and be lost as just another neighborhood association within a bigger city. I have always been a major supporter and advocate of this community-wide passion just like every resident that I have met over the last 3 1/2 years. But when it comes to finding common solutions and strategies to maintain this independence, finger pointing of responsibility and accountability turns ugly.

When people chose to protect something special and to maintain something that others have lost or do not have, it does cost money. If you chose to live in an historic home, there are costs associated with this privilege, as compared to a new track home in Riverside. If you chose to drive a classic car, there are significant costs for maintenance and repairs, and the list goes on. Most young families today can't afford such luxuries, nor afford a \$1 million + home in Sierra Madre because it is a "protected community." In many ways, Sierra Madre is a "guard gated" community like Bradbury Estates, or other affluent areas, but not all residents see that reality in the mirror.

#### Why Can't We Have Everything For Free?

One of the underlying issues, in my opinion, of the fierce polarization in Sierra Madre comes from the fact that many residents do not see themselves as affluent, when in fact, their net worth is higher than most Americans. Many long-time residents view themselves as a working class community and not the land-rich owners that they truly are. For example, if a young family purchases an average home today in Sierra Madre at \$900,000 with 20% down, they have a mortgage of \$720,000 and pay \$9,000 a year in property taxes. Now, the same family next door who purchased the same house in 1978 for, let's say, \$90,000 no longer has a first mortgage and only pays \$900 a year in property taxes.

Therefore, the newer family has a net worth \$180K and pays \$9,000 a year in taxes and their neighbor has a net worth of \$900K and pays \$900 in taxes. Many long-time residents are now cashing-in on their property values or trying to transfer their homes to children without any property tax conversions. These huge financial gains in property values are very unique to the entire Southern California real

estate market because Southern California still remains the region of opportunity. Protecting and financing the uniqueness of Sierra Madre, however, cannot be viewed from the perspective of 30 years ago. It does require money to keep the "gated community" from opening up to the rest of the region.

#### Small Town Newspapers

This financial analysis brings me to my closing point. Since I purchased the MountainViews in 2004, I have heard and listened to all of the comments and complaints about losing "just a Sierra Madre newspaper." People questioned why I expanded the newspaper, why we didn't cover police blogs, birthdays, anniversaries, and dwell deep into political conspiracy accusations. Publishing a single-town newspaper for 10,000 residents without a vibrant business community advertising support just isn't reality. The cost of printing, distribution and a minimal staff for a weekly newspaper costs over \$200K per year to operate without a profit. So the question to be asked is "who pays for this expense?" If a group of residents and those "vocal" advocates on both sides of the fence want to produce an exclusive weekly Sierra Madre Newspaper, with the guaranteed payment of \$15K a month to cover costs, I am sure someone would produce the paper without ads. So far, there have been no takers. Print media costs are covered by business advertisers. Subscriptions alone don't.

#### The New MountainViews-Observer

After the management changes in the Mt. Wilson Observer, I considered and eventually agreed to sell the former MountainViews Newspaper to Susan Henderson. We realized that it is important that BOTH sides of the political debates in Sierra Madre share the same newspaper. Thus Susan's acquisition of MVN and the birth of the MountainViews-Observer. I continue to offer, "In My Opinion" columns and continue to operate my business in Sierra Madre, THE Magazine. I ask that every resident and business supporter give her the chance as an independent publisher to make this work.

Think of the new MountainViews-Observer as the local "Kennedy & Holmes" cable show where everyone can share their points of view. The economic reality, however, is that it still requires revenue to produce this newspaper. So, advertisers from the surrounding communities, and thus features and news of these communities, is required. Unlike the other regional newspapers, controversial issues, editorials and political opinions sets the MountainViews-Observer apart from just press release stories. Community-based newspapers do require community-based support. You may not agree with the publisher or some of the opinion columns, but this is what keeps democracy and the unique passion of Sierra Madre alive.







## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Media Contact: Elsa Weaver, Public Information Officer  
Telephone Number: 626-355-5278 x703  
Email: city@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us

Company Name: City of Sierra Madre  
Telephone Number: 626-355-5278

## Headline

**Sierra Madre, CA. August 15, 2007 -**

**Sierra Madre Improves Local Transit Program**

After 18 months of studying the City of Sierra Madre's Gateway Coach transit system, the Transit Master Plan Committee submitted their final report to the City Council, which was adopted at the last City Council meeting in July. As a part of this adoption a number of improvements have been made to both the Dial-A-Ride and Gateway Coach, including extended hours for Dial-A-Ride and a new route to the Gold Line for the Gateway Coach.

Dial-A-Ride

Sierra Madre Dial-A-Ride program is a curb-to curb transportation service for elderly and disabled residents of Sierra Madre. Out-of-town trips can go no more than two miles beyond the City, but may travel to a variety of the medical facilities in Pasadena, Arcadia, or Duarte. Riders must be residents of Sierra Madre and must be 65 years of age or older, or must have a form, signed by a physician, attesting to a disability which hinders mobility and the use of MTA buses. All patrons of the service must first register with the City's Community and Personnel Services Department, and present proof of residency and age or disability. Riders are paid for by the use of vouchers, which are \$1 for in-town trips / \$2 for out-of-town. Dial-A-Ride operate Monday - Saturday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (no service Sunday and Holidays). **For reservations please call 626.355.3073**

**NEW** On Tuesdays, Dial-A-Ride will travel East as far as Duarte's City of Hope, but not in the Westerly direction. On Thursdays, Dial-A-Ride will travel West as far as Pasadena's Huntington Hospital, but not in the Easterly direction. On Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays Dial-A-Ride will travel in both directions for scheduled appointments.

**NEW** Medical trips will continue to receive priority only if they are reserved a minimum of 48 hours in advance of the date of service. Existing non-medical trips reserved within 48 hours of the requested time will not be bumped by last-minute medical trip requests. Last-minute medical trips will be accommodated as much as availability allows.

Upon making a reservation please provide the address of the destination, number of persons traveling, whether a wheelchair-accessible vehicle is needed and your telephone number. The dispatcher will advise travelers of the approximate pick-up time. Please allow for a 20 minute window. At pick-up drivers are not required to wait more than 10 minutes. Passengers requesting a wheelchair accessible vehicle must make their request at least one hour in advance.

Drivers may assist upon request in loading and unloading of senior citizens and disabled riders' packages not exceeding twenty-five (25) pounds.

Gateway Coach

The Gateway Coach travels a loop through town Monday - Friday. The Commuter Loop operates 7:00 - 8:00 am and 5:00 - 6:00 pm. The Round-A-Bout runs from 11:00 am - 3:30 pm. Each loop takes 30 minutes. The fare is \$0.10; however, some riders qualify for free services including seniors (65 or older), those who are disabled and youths who are 16 and younger. To qualify, riders must have obtained an ID from the Community Recreation Center, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.

232 W. SIERRA MADRE BLVD., SIERRA MADRE, CA 91024 626.355.5278 F.626.836.6656

## Sierra Madre Senior Happenings

We will be starting a monthly section devoted to activities and items of special interest to seniors. It will be called "Senior Happenings," and it will garner information from the Sierra Madre Senior Community Commission's monthly newsletter entitled, "Senior Moments." We would also like to introduce a different senior each month in "Getting to know..." beginning with next month's issue.

**Activities:** Unless listed differently, all activities are at the Hart Memorial Park House (Senior Center) 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre

**Lunch Program: Monday-Friday** at the "Intervale Senior Cafe"  
Call day ahead for reservations-355-0256- Suggested donation- \$2.00 for seniors- \$3.75 for all others

**Monday:** Strength Training-Volunteer instructor Lisa Brandley 1:00-1:45 PM

**Tuesday:** Bingo 1:30 - 3:30 PM - .25c per card

**Yoga:** 5:00 PM- Instructor Andrea Walsh- cost \$5.25 for seniors

**Thursday:** ~~Poker~~ 1:30 - 3:30 PM \* Call Pat for more information 355-7290

**Yoga:** 5:00- 6:30 PM- For seniors or others who want to go slow (can be done in a chair) Instructor Andrea Walsh \$5.25 for those 50 & over \$7.00 for those under 50. To register call: Rosemary Garcia (626) 355-5278

**Friday:** Ping Pong - 2:00PM- 4:00PM - **Not** tournament, for fun only  
**Aerobics for Active Seniors:** 3:00-4:00PM at the Community Center- 8 week course \$34.00 taught by Bonnie Smithson- Call Rosemary Garcia to enroll - (626) 355-5278.

**Saturday:** Senior Club (For those 55 and over)\*Brown-bag lunch at 11:30 AM. Bingo begins at 12:30 - Dues \$5.00 per year

**Meals-On-Wheels:** Meals are delivered to homebound seniors through the YWCA Intervale Lunch Program M-F with frozen meals for the weekend \$2.00 suggested donation per day. Call Susan Garcia at (626) 960-3773

**Monthly Excursions:** \*Registration can begin after trip flyer is received, not before

**August 18:** Malof Museum in Rancho Cucamonga, lunch at Vince's Spaghetti House- \$31.00

**September 20:** Griffith Observatory- Planetary show, movie & displays \$15.00- Lunch on your own in the Wolfgang Puck Kitchen

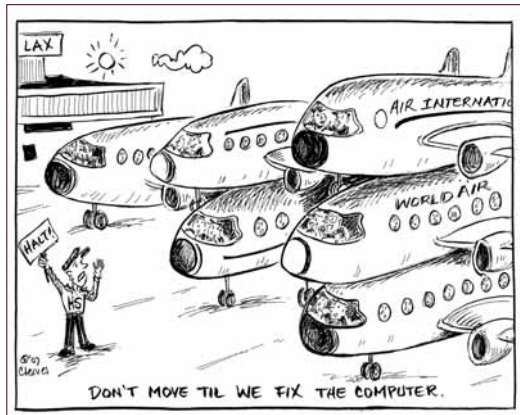
**October 20 (Saturday):** Oktoberfest in Big Bear- Bus, entrance, German dinner w/ dessert, choice of beer or wine. \$40.00

For more information and reservations call Lisa or Alexis at 355-5278

\*All trips subject to change/Scholarships available

**Free Consultation** with Pasadena attorney Geoffrey Chin- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, 10:00 am- Noon. Call Lisa or Alexis at 355-5278 for an appointment.

\*Conflicting court schedules can occasionally cause appointment cancellations.



## CITY OF SIERRA MADRE, CALIFORNIA - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Management Analyst \$3,808 - \$4,761 monthly  
Application Deadline: Wednesday, August 8th at 4:00 pm

Position

The City of Sierra Madre is seeking an enthusiastic team player to work in the Public Works and City Managers' Office. The position involves general administrative direction, performs complex entry-level budgetary, legislative, financial, administrative and analytical support duties for an assigned department and/or division; oversees assigned administrative processes, procedures and programs; coordinates assigned activities, program and special projects with other City departments, outside agencies and the general public.

The City of Sierra Madre

The City of Sierra Madre, a 2007 All-America City, is a unique foothill village located in Los Angeles County at the base of the San Gabriel Valley Mountains with a population of approximately 11,700. The City is a full service municipality operating under the Council/Manager form of government. The City has 65 full-time employees assigned to eight operating departments. The dedicated City staff provides excellent service to the community. The City was incorporated in 1907 as a General Law city. It has its own Water Department, Library, and Police Department. The City is proud of its Volunteer Fire Department.

City of Sierra Madre Mission Statement

The City of Sierra Madre provides quality, cost-effective public services that preserve the small downtown character and enhance the health, safety and welfare of the community.

The Public Works Department

The Sierra Madre Public Works Department is responsible for production and distribution of potable water to the community, maintenance of all city infrastructure, including street, sewer, storm drain and water systems, maintenance of all city buildings, parks, landscapes areas and city owned trees. The Department also maintains the City's vehicle fleet. Department staff administers the City's contract solid waste disposal, street sweeping and tree trimming services. Staff serves as liaison to the Tree Advisory Commission, administers the City's capital improvement program, and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

The following duties are normal for this position. These are not to be construed as exclusive or all-inclusive. Other duties may be required and assigned.

Assist in the development and implementation of goals, objectives, programs, policies and procedures for assigned work areas, program and special projects;  
Continuously monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of work areas, programs and operations as assigned;  
Develop programs and implement projects to improve service delivery efficiency and effectiveness in conjunction with the City Manager;  
Interpret regulations, ordinances, codes and laws to ensure compliance;  
Represent the City to outside agencies;  
Explain and interpret City programs, policies and activities;  
Prepare and present staff reports and other necessary correspondence; conduct organizational and operational studies and investigations; recommend modifications to programs, policies and procedures as appropriate;  
Review and analyze reports, legislation and related matters;

In conjunction with the City Manager, participate in the preparation and administration of assigned budgets and special projects; maintain proper budgetary controls;

In conjunction with the Director of Public Works, participate in the preparation and administration of assigned Public Works projects; maintain proper budgetary controls; Collect, compile and analyze information from various sources on a variety of specialized topics including financial, budget or administrative issues or questions

Prepare technical records and reports on grants and special projects;  
Identify problems, opportunities for improvements, alternatives and make and justify recommendations regarding same;  
Administers facility improvement or environmental projects as assigned by the City Manager or Director of Public Works;  
Serve as liaison with employees, public and private organizations; represent the City on a variety of community groups, boards, commissions, with State and federal agencies and to other private and public entities;  
Provide information and assistance to the public regarding assigned programs and services;  
Receive and respond to complaints and questions regarding assigned areas of responsibility;  
Assist in contract negotiations; monitor contract compliance;  
Prepare and monitor program grants and related proposals;  
Prepare and maintain necessary records, files and documents;  
Performs other related duties as required.

Supervision Responsibilities

Exercises direct supervision over professional, technical and administrative support staff.

Minimum Qualifications

A Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, Business Administration or other related field. Master's Degree is desirable and/or equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required skills, knowledge and abilities. Must be able to successfully meet and deal with the public and other employees. One year of administrative and analytical experience involving research, analysis, and recommendation of policies, procedures and actions on a variety of administrative issues.

License/Certification Requirements:

Possession of a valid California driver's license; Class "C" or higher.

Compensation

Salary range: \$4,206 to \$4,761 per month. Salary will be negotiated based on qualifications.

Fully paid medical, dental, and vision insurance for the City for the employee and eligible dependents.

Death & disability, life insurance policies, short term disability & PERS level II survivor benefit is provided.

PERS retirement - City participates in the CalPERS retirement system at 2% @ 55. City provides full employee share and counts toward final retirement compensation. No participation in social security.

EPMC: 7% paid by the City is reported as employee's income for calculating retirement benefit.

Deferred Compensation programs are available with ICMA. City contributes \$1,300 annually.

Annual paid leave of 88 vacation hours (for first four years), 14 paid holidays, 80 administrative leave hours and 96 hours of sick leave.

Alternative work schedule 9/80.

Flexible spending accounts for medical and child-care expenses.

Tuition reimbursement and computer loan programs available

Application process

Application deadline: Wednesday, August 8, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

Candidates should send a completed application and current resume to Miguel Hernandez, Personnel Analyst, Sierra Madre City Hall, 232 West Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre CA 91024. Applications can also be faxed to (626) 355-2251.

Applications must be completed and demonstrate that the minimum qualifications are met. All statements made on the application are subject to investigation and verification. Resumes may be attached to completed application forms as supplemental information, but will not be accepted in lieu of an official application form.

The most qualified candidates will be selected to participate in an interview process. All candidates who meet the minimum qualifications will remain candidates until a final offer is accepted by the candidate who most closely meets the requirements of the City. The City may conclude that none of the candidates, even those who meet the minimum qualifications, are appropriate for the position. The position is open until Wednesday, August 8, 2007 at 4:00 p.m..

The successful candidate must pass:

Pre-employment medical exam, including a drug/alcohol screening; and  
Reference and background verification, including a credit screening. References will not be contacted until a mutual interest has been established.

Immigration and Reform Act of 1986

In compliance with the Immigration and Reform Act of 1986, all new employees must demonstrate eligibility to legally work in the United States by providing required documentation.

Equal Opportunity Employer

The City does not make employment decisions based on sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status or physical handicap, except when such qualifications are appropriate occupational qualifications

Employment Standards

Employment with the City of Sierra Madre is contingent upon meeting the medical standards of the position. A candidate must pass a pre-employment physical examination, including a drug/alcohol screening and a reference and background check.

The City of Sierra Madre makes reasonable accommodations for disabled persons, considering each situation on an individual basis. Please make direct requests for accommodation to City Administration - Personnel.

The provisions of this job announcement do not constitute an expressed or implied contract. Any provision contained in this job announcement may be modified or revoked without notice.

Questions may be directed to Miguel Hernandez at (626) 355-7135 or at mhernandez@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us. Applicants may wish to visit the City's official website - [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com) - for further information.

# TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business

## Violent Video Games May Now Be Protect Speech, But Are They Fun?

By Dean Lee

As the video game debate rages on one has to stop and ask, is playing a game that portrays you as an escaped death row inmate who is supposed to be put to death by lethal injection, only to wake up, find it did not work and then be promised freedom only if you kill everything in sight, "fun"? Some say yes.

The original game "Manhunt," by Rockstar Games, the developer of Grand Theft Auto series, was considered by many to be the most dark, violent game in history. That is, until "Manhunt 2" was scheduled to be released this summer, but was blocked by a lawsuit by self-proclaimed Christian conservative Jack Thompson, in Florida. The game developer successfully countersued, blocking Thompson's suit in U.S. District Court. But this was just the beginning, as both Nintendo and Sony have policies prohibiting adults only (AO) rated game titles for their systems. AO is the highest restriction placed on games in the United States.

So, as a very select few "gamers" wait for their beloved blood and gore, parents now need also to be a little more alert, as a federal judge in San Jose has blocked a new state law signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2005 that would have prohibited the sale of violent video games to children. Yes, this means your 13-year-old could walk in the door holding "Manhunt 2" or "Bully," a game based on the Columbine massacre. Although, as a disclaimer, most game stores would never sell these to kids.

While signing the legislation in 2005 Schwarzenegger said, "I believe strongly that we must give parents the tools to help them protect their children. I will do everything in my power to preserve this new law and I will urge the Attorney General to mount a vigorous defense of California's ability to prevent the sale of these games to children."

Every game except his own, that is, as Schwarzenegger conveniently planned the new legislation to change some of the rating system now in effect. He placed all the very violent "Terminator" games under a new category for "Teens," although the games rank right up there with other such titles as "Postal 2," rated mature



Frets on Fire, one of many free non-violent games available on the Internet. Photo Dean Lee/MVO

(M), a game where you kill innocent people for no good reason.

In some of the early games, Schwarzenegger himself does voice acting. None of the Terminator games ever sold well.

The Video Software Dealers Association and the Entertainment Software Association sued California officials last year, asking that the Schwarzenegger backed law, authored by assemblyman Leland Yee of San Francisco, be overturned, claiming the games are protected forms of expression, such as art, under the First Amendment.

Schwarzenegger vowed to appeal.

U.S. District Judge Ronald Whyte's decision blocking the California law earlier this month, mimicked other such rulings around the country.

"Whether we believe the advent of video games adds anything to the value to society is irrelevant," a Saint Louis County Missouri judge wrote after his ruling. "Guided by the First Amendment, we're obligated to recognize that these are as much entitled to the protection of free speech as the best of literature."

As any parent knows, First Amendment or not, these games are expensive. Just to get a game like Manhunt 2 for the PlayStation 3 on the family TV could cost upwards of \$600.

Other systems are far less expensive, but the developers of these games say they were designed for high-end gaming machines, like PS3 and XBOX 360. The question here to be asked of parents and kids alike, is why not just scrap this whole hyped nonsense?

Well, the best selling video game on the market right now is the nonviolent game, Guitar Hero II, selling 1.3

million copies in 2006. Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock is due out in October. There is also a free clone of the original Guitar Hero, Frets on Fire, for Windows and Mac OS X.

And just because it's free, doesn't mean it's bad. In fact, Frets on Fire was the winner of many game development competitions, including the 2006 Assembly, an event for game developers very similar to the Oscars. Guitar Hero itself has also won many awards from major video game publications. U.P. com awarded the game a perfect 10/10, on a scale that only goes to 10. Well known GameSpot.com also gave Guitar Hero a high ranking 9/10.

Both Guitar Hero and Frets on Fire are played the same, as players hit keys along with scrolling on-screen musical notes to complete a song. Frets on Fire is unique in that you hold the keyboard upside down like a guitar to play whereas the Guitar Hero series uses a special Gibson guitar shaped controller costing \$90. The same Gibson SG controller can also be used with Frets on Fire, as well as having the ability to import all of the Guitar Hero songs like, "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" by Joan Jett & the Blackhearts, and "I Wanna Be Sedated" by The Ramones.

Other songs include, "Ziggy Stardust" by David Bowie, "Spanish Castle Magic" by Jimi Hendrix, and "Godzilla" by Blue Oyster Cult. There is even a cut by Ozzy Osbourne. He has changed his ways, right? Frets on Fire also lets you import thousands of your own, or other user created songs, from the internet.

So, if you gotta game, why not try games like these?

\*Frets on Fire can be downloaded for free at [fretsonfire.sourceforge.net](http://fretsonfire.sourceforge.net).

## You 'can' take it with you



By Ken Gruberman,

Dear Tech Daddy,

I am nearing retirement and have so far resisted getting a cell phone and organizer. My resistance is softening but I see all these combination phone and personal organizers and don't know which way to go. Any guidance? — Palmless in Pasadena

Dear Palmless,

Today's "organizer" phones are, in essence, fully functioning computers that fit in your pocket. They can surf the web, get email, take photos, play music, keep track of your appointments and much more. When shopping for this kind of phone, it's easy to get dazzled by all the fancy styling and features: it's more important to evaluate a phone by its usability factor. Look for buttons

that are easy to press and are readable in low light conditions, good battery life and/or an extended-use battery, a bright easy-to-read screen and features you'll actually use.

Be prepared to pay \$400 to \$500 for a quality unit. While the hardware is often pricey, the monthly plan can be worse, so don't sign up for features you won't use. For example, Internet access (also called "data access") often costs \$30 to \$40 more per month, depending on your carrier. If you don't need it, don't pay for it.

That said, I was surprised at how often I've used Internet access since getting an Internet-enabled phone. I initially thought it wasn't that important, but it's been a life-saver on several occasions. I've used the Web on my cell phone to access directions, find and make dinner reservations, consult show times and much more... all while on the go.

Just as with computers, organizer phones are broken down by the operating systems they use. The top-rated in each field are: the Treo 700p (Windows Mobile), the Treo 680 (Palm OS), the just-released BlackBerry Curve (BlackBerry OS) and Apple's revolutionary new iPhone, which runs

on a new version of the Mac OS.

Integrating these phones with either a PC or Mac is easy: for PCs, the Treo and BlackBerry phones include the necessary software, while Mac users can take advantage of "Mark/Space's excellent "The Missing Sync" software, which is superior to the free software that is included. The iPhone features seamless integration with both Macs and PCs and is the first organizer phone to feature a "multi-touch" interface with an auto-sensing screen.

All of these devices will work with whatever organizer software you use, along with photo, music and email programs. Plan to spend at least a few hours learning how to use these phones to get the most out of them — don't think you can simply turn them on and get them to do everything you want right away.

Yes, you'll actually have to... (shudder) read the manual!

If you have questions about personal technology, please email them to me at [ken@thetechdaddy.com](mailto:ken@thetechdaddy.com) and be sure to put "Tech Question" (without the quotes) in the subject line of your email.

The  
Mountain  
Views-Observer  
Offers  
Great  
Advertising  
Opportunities  
For You!  
Affordable  
Rates!  
Call  
Julie at  
626-836-6524

**A to Z** One Stop Home Improvement  
Free In-Home Estimate

**Spring Remodel**  
Kitchen Cabinets  
Granite Counters  
up to 20 linear ft.  
**\$5,895**

**Carpets**  
Hardwood  
Floors  
**BLINDS**  
Shutters  
Hunter Douglas  
Low Priced

941 1/2 W. Foothill Blvd. Call Now!  
Monrovia 626-357-9997

**HOMEMAID**  
Cleaning Services

Call 626.836.8353  
Fax 626.836.8373

**WALSH'S PEST CONTROL**

**Got Ants?**

**Termidor's The Answer**

626.359.4712

**SAENZ CONSTRUCTION**  
485 Monrovia Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016  
626.303.6285 Bonded License #570175  
Quality Workmanship at Reasonable Prices  
Fully Insured • 20 Years Experience  
Free Estimates • Senior Citizen Discount

- HOME REPAIRS
- REMODELING & ADDITIONS
- CARPENTRY
- MASONRY
- PLUMBING
- PAINTING
- ELECTRICITY
- EARTHQUAKE RETROFIT
- EARTHQUAKE SHUT OFF GAS
- ALL TYPES ROOFING & FENCING

REFERENCES AVAILABLE • SMALL & BIG JOBS • BY THE HOUR OR JOB

**SPRINKLER WORKS**

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS • Landscape Lighting • Waterfalls

Call 626.414.1004



# The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

## BPA

It's Bisphenol A, or, you know, BPA for those of us who need more acronyms in our lives. That is the chemical leaching from the inside of the #7 plastic eco-groovy Nalgene water bottle you bought to help save planet earth. Remember? So you could drink tap water? It's healthy and refreshing.

The Nalgene "Lexan" is the water bottle I owned up until a few days ago when I attacked mine with a hammer for poisoning me. It creatively obeyed the laws of physics and struck me in the head. I returned it to REI. The green-vested sales associate was not explicitly judgmental about the return. But I could tell that she noticed that our dishwasher has not been performing impressively of late. I think it's the hard water. Or maybe I am not using the correct amount of soap. But everything is coming out with this nice milky film and a coarse grainy texture. It is perfect for impressing dinner guests. Anyway, the water bottle had seen better days, but REI Lady took it off my hands and I went shopping for something that would carry my water without causing neurological damage (I have had quite enough, thank you). I bought a stainless steel "Kleen Kanteen" and a cheap-looking #2 plastic Nalgene. Now I am safe from ever getting cancer. I would be, anyway, if I could avoid the other kajillions of polycarbonate

plastics BPA is used to produce. According to the National Institute of Health, BPA is present in food and drink packaging, coatings of food cans, bottle tops, water supply lines, and even dental sealants and tooth coatings. Yes, it is in my pipes, and on my number 2 maxillary molar. Grand.

Thankfully, the National Institute of Health, National Toxicology Program, loves me and cares about whether or not I can fall asleep without fixating on the BPA dripping from my teeth. The NIH convened an expert panel in the first week of August to "review and assess scientific studies on the potential reproductive and developmental hazards" of BPA. This panel of 12 independent scientists (which included Gandalf the Gray and Yoda) looked at a whole bunch of data with lots of charts and graphs and statistical formulas. Then, it released its conclusions on the effects of BPA on pregnant women and fetuses, infants, children and boring old adults.

The American Chemistry Council (which "represents the companies that make modern life possible") was extremely happy with the study's results. In a reassuring press release, Steven Hentges of the American Chemistry Council's Polycarbonate/BPA Global Group is quoted as saying, "The safety of our products is our top priority. The conclusions reported today provide strong reassurance to consumers that they are not at risk from use of

products made from Bisphenol A." Yay!

But before you go and start eating packaged food or getting dental work done, read the Draft Meeting Summary. It is available online at (big long web address alert) [http://cerhr.niehs.nih.gov/chemicals/bisphenol/draftBPA\\_MtgSumm080807.pdf](http://cerhr.niehs.nih.gov/chemicals/bisphenol/draftBPA_MtgSumm080807.pdf). It is true that in the report the 12 scientists express "minimal" or "negligible" concern about BPA affecting the prostate, accelerating puberty, or causing birth defects and malformations, which is pretty good news. But then, the panel goes and expresses "some concern" that exposure to BPA causes neural and behavioral effects in fetuses, infants and children. I wonder, how did the panel of experts express that concern? Maybe with a collective low volume, slightly agitated, "oh no?" Or maybe a "good gracious?"

Hard to say. Perhaps that information will be included in the final expert panel report, which will be available this fall. When it arrives you (and every environmental group and chemical corporation under the sun) will be able to submit comments before the NIH releases its final word on whether current BPA exposure levels are a risk to human development and reproduction. Then we'll all know for sure for sure for sure. Meanwhile, I am drinking filtered rain-water from my stainless steel water bottle. And, I am getting wooden teeth.

## The Mountain Clymer

By Kim Clymer Kelley

### ....and Baby Makes 13:

#### The Great Placenta Hunt Part 4 of 4

If someone had told me five years prior to this night, when I was a suburban housewife/stay-at home mom, that in five years I would be combing a corral in the mountains with a flashlight and bucket at four in the morning searching for a donkey placenta, I would probably still find myself chuckling over the thought from time to time...had it not ended up being true. But here we were, flashlights in hand, heading up the ramp to the top corral to search for a donkey placenta in the half-acre of powdered manure, boulders and mud that we called the "upper corral."

"So what exactly does a donkey placenta look like?" Al asked....an obvious question that had not exactly crossed my mind for some reason.

I pondered that a moment. "Gosh, I have no idea," I answered. Having given birth three times myself, I had seen human ones, so I guessed that I was looking for something similar. "Something big and purple and globby, I guess," I offered.

For the next half hour or so, followed by a herd of very curious equine, we thoroughly and methodically covered every square inch of the corral and came up with only a couple horseshoes, some fence insulators, and a very muddy, very old halter.

"Well I sure don't see anything that even remotely looks like it might be a placenta." This was not so entertaining anymore. "We'll just have to tell her we could not find it, I guess."

Al agreed and we abandoned our search. As we headed over to the gate where Bonnie had stood squawking earlier, something occurred to me. "Oh my gawd!!!!" I exclaimed in my best Al impersonation. "I think I know where it might be....I think that Bonnie must have given birth to him through the gate."

"You mean she backed up to it and squirted it out right through the gate?" he asked incredulously. "Well, look at this...how could that wobbly little thing climb through here on its own?" I asked, examining the gate closely. "I bet she was in labor and backed up to the fence trying to keep the others

away and when he came out he went right through the gate and onto the ramp." Al opened the gate and we headed down the ramp, carefully shining the flashlights on each of the

steps as we went. There, on the third step from the top, was lying something that looked like a mud-coated tee shirt. I picked it up and held it out to take a look. "I think this is it!" I said excitedly.

Al examined it closely. "Eeeew!!!! Looks more like a muddy rag," he observed. I agreed and dropped it in the bucket and we continued back to the barn.

We stowed the bucket in a metal cabinet so that no animal would get into it (I am sure it is considered a delicacy in most of the carnivore world) and took off to the grocery store to get what we needed to complete our other assignments. By the time we got to Ralph's it was nearly five. We headed to the baby aisle to find some baby bottles and to the medicine aisle to find an enema and a bottle of betadine solution...an interesting assortment of items to be making a run for at such an hour...the cashier looked perplexed, but reserved comment.

Returning to the station we headed to the stall to administer the enema. It took a bit of wrangling to keep Heasley still enough to complete the task, but with the two of us working together, we managed. After a wide range of gurgly, squishy, and bubbly noises, it produced the needed results. Mission two accomplished.

"Have you ever milked a donkey?" I asked as I realized that I had just opened the door for a typical Al answer. "Never mind, don't answer that question," I laughed. I handed him the bottle and instructed him to hold it steady and close to her nipples as I expressed the milk from them into the bottle. It did not take long to fill. Her udders were bulging with milk by this time since Heasley had not been nursing yet. Again Al held the baby still while I tried to get him to eat from the bottle. Heasley tried for a bit to eat from the bottle, but could not seem to make it work. I thought maybe the hole was too small, so I cut it a bit bigger, but still he could not seem to figure it out. Frustrated, we gave up and decided to leave them alone to figure it out on their own. We stumbled back to the house to try to get a bit more sleep.

We awoke again about nine, got up, and headed out to the barn to see how the two were doing. It was such a wonderful surprise to find Heasley happily and hungrily nursing on his mother. I headed to the phone and called the vet again to tell her about the progress and to let her know that it was a boy and we had named him Heasley. She said that she was leaving soon to come up with a tetanus shot and some other stuff that he needed. I then proceeded to call everyone I could think of to tell them the news.

The vet arrived and I showed her to the stall. She took what she needed from her bag and went in to check out Bonnie and her new little son. "Where is the placenta?" she inquired as she began to examine the new mother.

"I locked it up in the cabinet so no one would eat it," I answered as I went to retrieve it. Returning with it, I entered the stall and proudly presented it to her. She pulled it from the bucket and held it up to examine it...stretching it, rotating it and turning it inside out. "Looks good," she remarked. It looked totally gross to me, but I took her word for it, and was glad that she was pleased with how it looked. "Now let's take a look at you little fellow," she said as she tenderly lifted the little guy unto her lap. He was considerably cleaner than when I had found him...he had dried and much of the crust had flaked from his coat, which was pale gray, incredibly soft, and curly. His forehead had a much thicker coat making it look as though he was wearing a helmet. He was simply adorable.

"She looks really good," the vet declared as she lovingly cuddled the baby. "She is a real cutie."

"She???" I asked, surprised when I realized what had been said.

"You got yourself a little filly here. This is not a boy, it's a little girl!" I was a totally taken back and felt pretty stupid. It had never occurred to me to recheck things in the daylight before telling every one that "Heasley" had arrived.

"Gosh, I guess you are Lila, then sweetie...in sorry!" I could not wait to tell Lila Adams (the wife of Bill Adams who had run the station from 1938-1985) about her namesake. She was well into her 80's and fit and spry and one of the warmest and kindest people I had ever met. The station and the canyon meant the world to her. I knew she would be thrilled.

The rest of the day was filled with visitors and calls from well wishers all wanting to welcome to the world our little Lila...the first donkey ever born at Adam's Pack Station.

## Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

### Just a Stranger on the Bus

Does anybody remember a quite delightful TV series called "Joan of Arcadia"? It was about a high-school girl who kept running into the Almighty in the form of one stranger or another, who would give her assignments that resulted in unexpectedly beneficial outcomes for all concerned. Well, last Thursday I almost thought I was part of that show.

Due to an iffy battery in my car, I decided to leave the car at home and take public transportation to get from my home in Westchester to my dentist in San Gabriel. Actually the trip was rather pleasant—it took two hours instead of the one hour (barring traffic jams) it would have taken driving my car, but I must say it was a lot more relaxing.

What I especially remember, though, was people, beautiful people. Being suddenly put out of my car and off the freeways that skim over the town, I think I felt really a part of Los Angeles for the first time ever, even though I've been living and driving here for more than 50 years. So many caring people, I discovered, as they crowded onto the bus: a father carrying a baby who couldn't have been more than a month or two old, carefully cradling the infant's head as he struggled to remain on his feet while the bus accelerated; and then a lady tenderly guiding her aged and nearly blind mother onto the bus, into a seat. Such caring! What if God was one of us, just a stranger on the bus... was how the theme song from "Joan of Arcadia" went. Well, if loving has anything to do with it, I think maybe I got a glimpse of God last Thursday on the MTA #78 bus.

### WAVE AS THE SHUTTLE GOES BY

The Space Shuttle is back in orbit, linked up with the International Space Station (ISS), and the next few days will provide an excellent opportunity to view the linked spacecraft (they will appear as one bright dot) as they pass slowly, in a general west-to-east direction, across Sierra Madre's evening sky. Here are viewing times and directions for upcoming nights:

Sat. 8/18: Starts 10° up in N at 8:48:19; max. altitude 13° in NNE, 8:49:44.

Sun. 8/19: Starts 10° up in NNW at 9:09:43; max. altitude 32° in NNE at 9:11:59.



Photo by Jean Boenish

Mon. 8/20: Starts 10° up in N at 7:58:10; max. altitude 12° in NNE at 8:00:49.

Mon. 8/20: Starts 10° up in NW at 9:31:58; max. altitude 28° in WNW at 9:33:32.

Tues. 8/21: Starts 10° up in NNW at 8:19:27; max. altitude 32° in NE at 8:22:08.

Wed. 8/22: Starts 10° up in NW at 8:41:37; max. altitude 58° in SW at 8:44:27.

These times are subject to change, and undocking is scheduled for 8/20. For viewing times after undocking, see <http://www.heavens-above.com>.

Space Shuttle Endeavour was launched August 8 and is expected to return August 22. During the mission, the crew will add the Starboard 5 (S5) truss segment to the right side of the station's backbone. The segment will provide clearance between sets of solar arrays. The flight will include at least three spacewalks during which the astronauts will install a new gyroscope and external spare parts platform to the station. Endeavour's mission will debut a new system that enables docked space shuttles to draw electrical power from the station to extend visits to the outpost. If this system functions as expected, three additional days and a spacewalk will be added to the flight.

Joining Mission Commander Scott Kelly on the crew are Pilot Charlie Hobaugh and Mission Specialists Tracy Caldwell, Rick Mastracchio, Barbara R. Morgan, Alvin Drew and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Dave Williams. This is the first flight for Morgan, the teacher-turned-astronaut whose association with NASA began 22 years ago when she was selected as the backup in the Teacher in Space Project.

This mission is the 119th space shuttle flight, the 20th flight for Endeavour and the 22nd U.S. flight to the International Space Station. The mission is Endeavour's first flight in more than four years. The shuttle underwent extensive modifications, including the addition of safety upgrades already added to shuttles Discovery and Atlantis.

###

**Sierra Madre Congregational Church**  
170 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. • (626) 355-3566  
[www.smccnet.org](http://www.smccnet.org)  
Rev. Richard J. Anderson, Senior Pastor

**Easter Service • 6 am Sunrise**

**Family Worship Service • 7 am • 8:15 • 9:45 • 11:15**

**Free All Church Brunch • Pritchard Hall 8:15 am - 11 am**

*Child Care Available*

# TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS



## Stories from The Sandwich Islands (Part 2)

Hope you had a chance to read last week's column as I went over the top ten Restaurants in and around the City Of Honolulu. If not, you can get to [www.mvobserver.com](http://www.mvobserver.com) and catch up on that article, plus the more than 15 other reviews in our archives.

I found that on my last three trips to Hawaii I ended up not having to even wear half of those clothes that I had packed. For the ladies this might not be the best advice, but for you gents, trust me. Three pair of Bermuda shorts, a few T-shirts, a golf shirt and your best Hawaiian Shirt will do. If you need to buy another sun tan lotion, razors or any other sundries. There are plenty of ABC Stores throughout the Island and I find the prices very reasonable. It's a perfect place to do your gift shopping on the last day of your vacation.

Getting around Oahu is a breeze. No need to rent a car unless you are very familiar with the Island or if you really have your heart set on a car. Another suggestion, most of the major resorts, Hilton Village or the Sheraton have a car agency at the hotel. So, skip the hassle of taking a shuttle from the Airport to The Car agency port. Get to your hotel first and then make the plans. We took the Trolley on four or five occasions; I found the trolley to be on time and the price is just \$2 each way. Planning on a day trip? Again, the major hotels can arrange a pick-up for about \$20 round trip. This is good for the Humailia Bay or Pearl Harbor. Get to Pearl Harbor early, it gets very busy in the afternoon, and try to avoid the weekends.

**Where to stay?** Ahhh very important! My daughter Lauren and I stayed at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Very nice grounds, entertainment just about every night, four pools and many top notch restaurants right on the grounds. Coffee lovers - The Hilton has a Starbucks on the property. **Note of Caution:** You really need to do just a little bit of research to find the hotel that is right on the beach, near the beach or blocks away from the beach. It is up to your own preference and budget. **Tip:** Many websites have user ratings and it is a great way to get opinions of previous visitors. Yahoo Travel and Travelocity both offer this service.

**When to go?** The temperature really doesn't change much during the year so it's a question of avoiding or joining the crowd. The end of June through August are peak months and thus a little more expensive.

What are your tips on Honolulu? E mail me at [thechefknows@yahoo.com](mailto:thechefknows@yahoo.com).

Join me this Sunday Night at 8PM on KJLA TV; I have put together a video log of my trip to Hawaii.



**What's New For You At** [www.mtwilsonobserver.com](http://www.mtwilsonobserver.com)  
**Got A Favorite Restaurant or Chef? Tell Peter Dills**

**bean town**  
coffee house & catering  
Sierra Madre, Ca.

<p><b>Fair Trade Fridays</b></p> <p>Bean Town will be featuring new fair trade coffees from around the world every Friday.</p> <p>Come to Bean Town on Fridays and learn more about organic fair trade coffees and how they support farmers in impoverished countries to have a better way of life. We will be featuring a new coffee from a different part of the world every week.</p>	<p><b>Sandwich Specials</b></p> <p>1/2 Sandwich and Side garden Salad Or Cup of homemade Soup with a fountain drink or iced tea \$7.99</p> <p><b>Sandwiches &amp; Wraps \$7.10</b></p> <p>Turkey, Roast Beef, Ham Italian, Veggie, Tuna Salad, Cashew Chicken Salad, Chicken Caesar</p> <p>Served on: White or Wheat Ciabatta Bread or Spinach, Tomato Basil Tortilla or Lettuce</p>
--	--

45 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-1596

**City Cafe CATERING**  
Fresh, Tasty Food To Your Budget

- Lunch & Dinner for 15 - 2,000 Guests
- Daily Deliveries
- Free Delivery, 25 Mile Radius on \$150 or More Orders
- Restaurant Available for Private Meetings & Parties
- Upon Request With 2 Months Advanced Notice
- Maximum Capacity 50 Guests

- Contact Us -  
Phone: 626-437-1589 or 626-633-0269  
Fax: 626-564-1739  
Email: [CityCafeCater@aol.com](mailto:CityCafeCater@aol.com)

**LET US CATER TO YOU**

Now Serving Breakfast!  
Bacon, Mushrooms, Scrambled Eggs, Potatoes,  
Grits and More

Monday - Friday 7am - 10am!

**Bessie's Daughter's Soulful Tacos**

Home of the "Original" Soulful Taco  
2237 Lincoln Avenue  
Alhambra, California 91001  
626-798-2344 ph 626-798-2345 fx  
[bessiesdaughterstacos.com/food.html](http://bessiesdaughterstacos.com/food.html)

Let Us Take Your Next Event

Lunch and Dinner Events  
Monday-Thursday 11am to 9pm  
Friday-Saturday 11am to 9pm  
Sunday 12 noon to 5 pm



## A CHAMPAGNE TOAST TO: SUSAN HENDERSON AND STEVE TOBIA

Susan and Steve are both living their dream. Susan, the new publisher and owner of the "MountainViews-Observer," and Steve, carrying on as publisher and owner of "The Magazine, Luxury Lifestyles".

We all know that the wines of Champagne are consumed at the most important moments in life. When we marry, when a child is born, and when we acquire a new job, or like with Susan and Steve, a new and exciting adventure.

Champagnes have a celebratory status like no other wine has. Handed a glass of Champagne, we simply abandon ourselves to its implied pleasure. No thought required. Few wines captivate us to the extent Champagne does.

Various Champagne houses are known for producing either lighter or fuller style Champagnes. For a light to medium style Champagne, try Billecart Salmon, Perrier Jouet, Pommery and Tattinger. For a medium style, try Pol Roger, Salon, Joseph Perrier, Heidsieck-Monopole, and Delamotte. For a medium to full style, try Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin, Henriot, Ruinart, and for full flavor, Bollinger, Krug, and Louis Roederer.

Prestige cuvees, also known as cuvees speciales, are the most luxurious, expensive and the highest quality category of Champagnes. The first prestige cuvee was made in 1876 by the house of Roederer for Czar Alexander II of Russia, who wanted an exclusive Champagne not available to the lower aristocracy. The Czar further dictated it be shipped in leaded crystal bottles. Roederer's prestige cuvee was hence named Cristal and is still to this day one of the most sought after, and well known, of all Champagnes.

The second prestige cuvee was Dom Perignon, first

made by Moet & Chandon in 1921 and shipped to the United States for the first time in 1936.

Some other stars among the finest of the finest Champagnes are listed below;

Charbault & Fils, Certificate golden and rose; Billecart-Salmon, cuvee N. F. Billecart, golden; Bollinger, Annee Rare R.D., golden and rose; Bollinger, Grand Anne, golden and rose; Krug, Clos de Mesnil, golden; Krug, Grande Cuvee golden and rose; and Krug, Vintage, golden; Laurent-Perrier, Grand Siecle, golden and rose; Louis Roederer, Cristal, golden and rose; Moet & Chandon, Dom Perignon, golden and rose; Tattinger, comtes de Champagne, golden and rose; Veuve Clicquot, La Grande Dame, golden and rose; Mumm, Grand Cordon, golden and rose; Mumm, Rene Lalou, golden; Pol Roger, cuvee Sir Winston Churchill, golden; Pommery, Cuvee Louise Pommery, golden and rose; Piper Heidsieck, Rare, golden; Joseph Perrier, Cuvee Josephine, golden; and Salon Le Mesnil, golden.

Here is a toast to Susan and Steve. "Good luck, and may all your wishes and dreams be just a moment and prayer away."

Wine Quote For The Week: "I only drink Champagne when I'm happy, and when I am sad. Sometimes I drink it when I'm alone. When I have company I consider it obligatory. I trifle with it if I am not hungry and drink it when I am. Otherwise I never touch it - unless I'm thirsty," Madame Lily Bollinger

Till next time, Good Health and Peace to all, Salut

Vince Pirolli, The Wine Guy

**Yoga Madre**  
Yoga Studio and Wellness Center

Classes for all levels

626.303.1004  
[www.yogamadre.com](http://www.yogamadre.com)

300 E. Foothill Blvd • Arcadia, CA 91006



# Jeff's Pics

## The Book Reports



**The Everything Home-Based Business Book: Everything You Need To Know To Start And Run A Successful Home-Based Business (2000)**

By Jack Savage

Have you been thinking about a home-based business? Well, how do you get started, and how can you insure that you will succeed? This excellent resource has many of the tools to turn your dream into a successful business. It provides a complete step-by-step guide to building and maintaining a home business that has worked for successful home-based entrepreneurs. Complete and comprehensive, it covers everything you need to know to get started. You'll find hundreds of tips that will help you get your idea off the ground. Jack covers such things as: Is a home business right for you, and what kind do you want? Is your home suitable? How do you get financing? How to calculate expenses and keep effective records, how to create a business plan. Using appropriate technology, dealing with taxes, legal issues and insurance, using marketing, promotion and sales techniques, using the internet. It has 20 chapters and 270 pages.

Other books that may be helpful in this series are:

101 Best Home-Based Businesses for Women, 3rd Edition: Everything You Need to Know About Getting Started on the Road to Success (For Fun & Profit) 2002 by Priscilla Huff.

The Women's Home-Based Business Book of Answers (2001) by Maria T. Bailey.

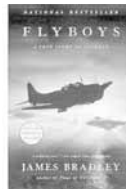
Starting an Online Business For Dummies, 4th Edition (2005) by Greg Holden.

Recommended by Dan Smith, a good friend and fellow reader!!

**Flyboys (2004)**

By James Bradley

From the author of *Flags of our Fathers*, this is a story only recently retold after 50 years, centering around the air war over Iwo Jima and Japan during WW2 and those Naval aviators, many barely out of their teens, who turned the tide of the Pacific war as well as being captured and killed. George Bush, Sr. was part of this campaign and the Japanese on Mt. Suribachi observed George being picked up by a submarine after he was shot down and his two crew-members were lost. A fascinating, well-documented account from those on both sides who were there.



## Scene One, Take One: DVD Review

**The Englishman Who Went Up A Hill But Came Down A Mountain (1995)**



In this charming and romantic British movie, set during World War I, English cartographer Reginald Anson (Hugh Grant) and his partner, George Garrard (Ian McNeice), anger an entire Welsh community when they arrive to measure the town's peak to see if it is a hill or mountain. Worried that their local landmark, which is a source of a great deal of pride being "the first mountain in Wales," may be downgraded to a hill, the townspeople get together and devise an ambitious scheme to remedy the situation. Based on a true story, it is a delightful movie with a great cast, location and acting.

**The Saint (1997)**

Another romantic movie, but this time with lots of action, involves Master thief Simon Templar, played by Val Kilmer, who eludes his pursuers by taking on the names of obscure saints. When a very rich Russian politician hires Templar to steal the new cold fusion formula, he falls in love with frail Emma Russell (Elisabeth Shue), the Oxford scientist who has unlocked the process' secret. Templar must decide whether to betray his new found love or the Russian who's paying him millions. Kilmer's portrayal of one Thomas More in order to win the heart of Emma is something to see. Lots of fun! Enjoy!



## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

### Sleep Tight!

It must have been a slow news day...The front page of Monday's Los Angeles Times read: "Bedbugs tuck into Southland." A color photo accompanying the article showed one of the tiny vampires on someone's skin that described how they are literally creeping their way across the Southland. The article continued on page 14, with a drawing of a bedbug that must have been magnified a gazillion times. (Okay, maybe not quite a gazillion.) Personally, unless one is an entomologist, I think we should all be spared the experience of seeing magnified pictures of any insect. Seeing a blow-up photo of the ever-present and extremely ugly dust mite, unfortunately, didn't turn me into a better housekeeper, so what's the point?

When I saw the bed bug's picture, I had an instant flashback to my childhood. What kind of sick people were my parents? They would tuck me into bed and say, "Night-night, sleep tight, don't let the bedbugs bite." That, coupled with the ever popular Boogeyman lurking under the bed, and fairy tales that weren't for sissies, it's no wonder that my photo appears on the Wanted poster for an upcoming psychiatrist's convention!

I have always been terrified of bugs. My first recollection was at the age of three or four when I had a praying mantis crawl up the front of my dress toward my face. Since I was so little, she didn't have far to crawl. Since then, I have had a seemingly never ending list of insect "encounters," for example...Experiencing in Florida, what the natives like to call Palmetto bugs. (translation: large winged cockroaches that are everywhere); Trying to keep a large, hissing June bug under a bucket until my then-husband got home to "take care of it"; Exiting my car rapidly after spotting a grasshopper in front of my face on the visor, leaving the door open and my small son strapped in his car seat. The thing finally flew out, and I got back in. My son thought the whole thing amusing, and seemed just fine. Of course after he reads this, he will realize that his mother abandoned him and will probably suffer some repressed angst. Such is life.

Statistics show that insects have existed for more than 350 million years, and the ratio of insects to humans is 200 million to 1. Sleep tight!

Pat may be reached at: [p.birdsall@mobserver.com](mailto:p.birdsall@mobserver.com)

**FOOT MASSAGE 足浴**

**GRAND OPENING SPECIAL**

FREE Massage for neck, shoulder and Back

**Tel: 626 359 2328**

949 W. FOOTHILL BLVD  
MONROVIA CA 91016  
(Corner Of 5th Ave & Foothill Blvd.)  
Business Hours: Open 7 Days 10am - 10pm

**\$19.99**  
One Hour

Pat Ostrye on.....

## Ernie Pyle

Today I rediscovered Ernie Pyle, accomplished U.S. Journalist and War Correspondent who was the recipient of a Pulitzer Prize in 1944. In this era of technically-refined and sophisticated journalism, it is mesmerizing to relive some of Pyle's "Home Country", his fifth book printed, but the first one written and then set aside.



Because of my late husband, who had been in law school at the time of Pyle's peak in popularity and thought he was the ultimate in journalistic perfection, this book has been catching dust on my shelf for sixty years. The date was circa 1934 when Pyle and his wife Jerry were first wandering around the country looking for material for his "piece a day" column in the Washington Daily News. Even in those years of peace-time, his daily column was the favorite of millions around the world.

I hadn't discovered him until later, while serving in the Navy in WWII, when he "wrote the clearest view of battles fought by America's sons in the name of freedom... capturing their plight, suffering alongside them", according to a short synopsis of his biography on the internet. Ultimately, he was shot down by Japanese fire in 1945, much too young, at the age of forty-five.

This book, "Home Country", is the farthest cry imaginable from his future wartime writings. It is more like a series of simple vignettes about the most ordinary living in his home state of Indiana, full of poignant happenings on the farm as an only child. His parents, who thoroughly enjoyed being "just home folks", after thirty years of marriage, finally made a trip to Niagara Falls, probably their only lifelong dream.

Aside from Pyle's fantastic command of the English language, what actually made me sit up and take notice was his blatant admission to being a hopeless solitary addict. He was completely fed up with hearing about bridge sharks. In his words, "I never played a game of bridge in my life and never intend to...in solitary you can miss a play or make a mistake, and nobody knows it but you and you're not telling". This was a game he could play without a partner no matter how lonely or where he might be.

I do agree. I was a solitary addict long before the days of computer games. I would go at it feverishly, quickly hiding the cards when I heard a car in the driveway. Today, I think there's nothing more remarkable than computer solitaire.

Ernie Pyle claimed, right to the end of "Home Country", that it was all of that travel and solitaire that gave him a feeling of escape and stability at the same time, while being free to do whatever he pleased!!

Pat Ostrye [postrye@netscape.com](mailto:postrye@netscape.com)

Residential

Commercial

**Jim's Window Cleaning**

Time to get your

**WINDOWS CLEANED**

**Screens & Sills FREE**

Affordable rates and free estimates

All work guaranteed  
James P. Quinn  
Owner

626.232.6603  
Cell 818.554.0371

**10% off with this Ad**



## One of a Kind:

Featuring unique homes & gardens...  
and the people who create them

Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

### Prettiest Little Jail Around! Sierra Madre's JailHouse Inn



1927 Historic Sierra Madre City Hall, Fire and Police Departments and Jail, taken prior to 1977.

By permission City of Sierra Madre.

It's not often that one meets an interior designer who decided to change career directions, becoming a criminal attorney. Petite and energetic, Sierra Madre attorney, Noreen Berra is that one of a kind. She even found a way to blend BOTH of those backgrounds together, becoming the "jailer" innkeeper for Sierra Madre's only hotel room, the Jailhouse Inn, which DEFINITELY qualifies as "One of a Kind" for my column's criteria!

A recent dinner discussion about limited office space available in Sierra Madre



Renovated building no longer has fire truck access doors, and now provides office space for architects, medical professionals, mortgage company, attorneys, and, of course, the Jailhouse Inn.

led to talk of unique uses of space in the business district, particularly Berra's Jailhouse Inn. Apparently jailhouses converted to bed and breakfast inns are not that uncommon. One guest, Eunice Banis, told of enthusiasts who make a hobby of staying at converted jails, like the one near her daughter on the East coast. Sure enough, a

setting most serene. Many of our guests say they have not slept so well since childhood." The Jailer's Inn in Bardstown KY, considers its bed and breakfast thought provoking. They offer accommodations filled with heirlooms and antiques in the front jail, but allow guests to visit the back jail, left in its original



The Windsor Lane entry to the smallest hotel in the US was formerly the entrance to the police department and the jail.

use state, for a sobering contrast. Aledo Illinois Great Escape Inn, built in 1909 as the Mercer County Jail, now shares their three story building with the Slammer, a jailhouse-themed restaurant. In keeping with the fun of this crime related marketing, Berra's web listing quips, "It's a crime not to stay here!"<sup>®</sup>. Sierra Madre's old city hall, police department and jail, originally constructed in 1927 saw five decades of use.

When a new municipal complex was dedicated in 1977, the retired building was converted to office space, though the jail was relegated to storage.

In the early 90's, Berra approached Don Murphy, the buildings owner, searching for office space for her legal employment. Murphy said the only space he had would likely be unacceptable, as it was the former jail. Berra was inspired rather than appalled, and moved in. Several years later, her

law firm moved to more traditional trappings in the same building, and she applied to the city to convert the jail to a hotel room.

The process of adapting the jail to a bed and breakfast turned into a labor of love, as well as cancer recovery therapy for this attorney/innkeeper. Help came from many sources, including a high school friend and fellow cancer survivor, Linda Colton, husband



Cozy and oh so secure! One cell, complete with bars, houses the queen size bed, while the other contains the bathroom.

Bruce, Don Murphy and his daughter, Desma Murphy, an assistant art director. She painted a mural inside the room, creating an extra "window" depicting a 1930's downtown Sierra Madre.

Berra and her husband inaugurated the Jailhouse Inn on December 31,

1999 as the first "inmates" starting a new tradition in this eclectic town. Though the advertise very little, they rarely have an empty night, with visitors from as far away as Asia and Europe, as well as visitors to Sierra Madre residents just a few doors away.

The space is very cozy, only about 200 square feet. One cell, complete with prison bars, became the sleeping quarters, and the other cell houses the bathroom. They have apparently been deemed the smallest hotel in the United States, as they can accommodate only two people in the single suite. Since there are no cooking facilities, the optional breakfast "subpoena" mandates that guests breakfast across the street at Corfu Restaurant.

When I pulled up to take a few exterior photos, a policeman slowed his patrol car to chat, noticing my camera. The officer smilingly informed me that the subject of my photo used to be the city jail, then waved and drove off without missing a beat. My creative mind immediately envisioned a great photo opportunity. Picture this: A Sierra Madre policeman/valet carrying in the bags of the next guests at the Jailhouse Inn. Alas, an opportunity lost. Probably not appropriate either, but lots of fun to imagine!

#### JailHouse Inn

On Windsor Lane  
55 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre 91024  
www.JailHouseInn.net  
Contact the "Jailers" at  
626 355-1927

Know of an interesting building or garden? Contact Chris at

C.Bertrand@  
MVObserver.com

## FREEDOM FROM FINANCING FEAR!

By Donna Baker

If you're planning the purchase of your first home, you're probably experiencing two conflicting emotions - excitement and apprehension. The positive energy from your excitement is an asset in your home search, but the negative energy from your fear of the unknown is a liability you can leave behind once you're armed with some basic information.

Paramount to buying your first home is understanding how much you can afford. You can start with any number of online financial calculators, and once you've established a budgetary picture, take the all-important next step - get pre-qualified with a lender.

Pre-qualification may sound intimidating, but it's a great way to find your "comfort zone" and build your purchasing confidence. When a lender interviews you and reviews your financial documentation, you'll know right now how much home you can afford. Be sure to consider, however, that what you qualify for and what you're comfortable paying for a mortgage may be two different things. A lender could tell you that your income qualifies you for an \$800,000 house, but you may not be comfortable making the payments associated with that kind of purchase. Ask the right questions!

Once you know that magic number, you can easily weed out homes above your budget, which will save you loads of time (and disappointment) during your home search. Then once you've found a home you love, you can rest assured that your offer will be taken very seriously, because your financing has already been conditionally backed by your lender.

Visit a local real estate brokerage to get an overview of the purchase process and to discuss your concerns and your dreams with an agent who can help you take those first steps toward ownership.



# DICKSON PODLEY

REALTORS



**Donna Baker**  
626.408.1408 • 626.487.0820  
www.4SaleByDonna.com



**Custom Homes**

 <p><b>STUNNING FRENCH NORMANDY ESTATE HOME</b></p> <p>117 ROSE LANE, MONROVIA OFFERED AT \$2,049,000</p> <p><b>4 BEDROOMS &amp; 5 BATHS</b></p>	 <p><b>FABULOUS CRAFTSMAN STYLE ESTATE HOME</b></p> <p>118 ROSE LANE, MONROVIA OFFERED AT \$1,809,000</p> <p><b>4 BEDROOMS &amp; 5.5 BATHS</b></p>
 <p><b>BEAUTIFUL TRADITIONAL ESTATE HOME</b></p> <p>116 ROSE LANE, MONROVIA OFFERED AT \$1,949,000</p> <p><b>5 BEDROOMS &amp; 4.5 BATHS</b></p>	 <p><b>GORGEOUS MEDITERRANEAN STYLE ESTATE HOME</b></p> <p>122 ROSE LANE, MONROVIA OFFERED AT \$1,749,000</p> <p><b>4 BEDROOMS &amp; 3.5 BATHS</b></p>
 <p><b>IMPRESSIVE TRADITIONAL ESTATE HOME</b></p> <p>119 ROSE LANE, MONROVIA OFFERED AT \$1,849,000</p> <p><b>5 BEDROOMS &amp; 4.5 BATHS</b></p>	 <p><b>ROSE LANE CUSTOM ESTATES</b></p>

**OPEN HOUSE EVERY SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1 - 4 PM**



**Tap 'N' Tile Inc.**

**Large Selection of Natural Stone Marble & Granite**

Hand-Made Tiles • Mosaics • Terracottos  
Fireplace Columns & Trims • Architectural Ornaments  
Slab Fabrication

www.tapntile.com

Open Monday-Friday 8am-5pm Saturday 9am-1pm  
3191 E. Foothill Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91107  
(exit Madre off 210 fwy - go north - left at Foothill)

**(626) 405-0098**

SERVING YOU SINCE 1949

**GEM PLUMBING**

Locally Owned & Operated

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING  
SALES, SERVICE & INSTALLATION

**We'll Do It All**

COPPER RE-PIPS  
FAUCETS • LEAK DETECTION  
KITCHEN AND BATH REMODELS  
DRAIN AND SEWER CLEANING • WATER  
HEATERS • WE TACKLE OLD FIXTURES

**ALL MAJOR BRANDS**

Emergency Service Available **355-3496**

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

140 E. Montecito, Sierra Madre  
State Contractor Lic. # 111308

**YOUR LOCAL ELECTRICIAN**

**Our Prices Won't Shock You!**

Residential • Commercial  
No Travel Charge & No Overtime

**24HR EMERGENCY SERVICE**

**Expert Reliable Service!**

- Small or Large Jobs
- Rewiring / Repairs / Installation
- 120v 240v 480v / Troubleshooting
- Circuit Breakers & Fuses
- Outlets & Switches / Meter Upgrades
- Outdoor / Indoor Lighting & Fans
- New Construction

Let There Be Light!

**CORNERSTONE ELECTRIC**  
Of Sierra Madre

LOWER YOUR ELECTRIC BILL  
UP TO 25% WITH POWER SAVER

www.cornerstoneelectric.com

**626-394-2104**

*A Tradition of Family Care Continues*

**Independent Living for Seniors**

**Assisted Living for Seniors**

Family Owned & Operated

**Arcadia Gardens Retirement Hotel**  
720 W. Camino Real • Arcadia, California 91007  
PHONE: (626) 574-8571 • FAX: (626) 574-5846  
www.arcadiagardensretirement.com

Orlando & Victoria Clarizio  
Founders

MARY KAY

**makeup now**

From the latest on-trend colors to the classics, I can help you create a look for every occasion and every new outfit in your wardrobe. **Call today** for your complimentary color makeover.

**Dale Ann Perales**  
Independent Beauty Specialist  
www.marykay.com/daaleann  
626.576.2787

The  
Mountain  
Views-Observer

Offers  
Great  
Advertising  
Opportunities  
For You!

Affordable  
Rates!

Call  
Julie at  
626-836-6524

**DICKSON PODLEY REALTORS**

**Donna Baker**  
626.408.1408 • 626.487.0820  
www.4SaleByDonna.com

**Heritage Homes**

**1887 GRAND VICTORIAN LANDMARK**  
329 MELROSE AVENUE, MONROVIA  
OFFERED AT \$1,275,000  
3 LEVELS WITH 5 BEDROOMS & 2 BATHS

**BEAUTIFULLY RESTORED CRAFTSMAN**  
1050 N. LOS ROBLES, PASADENA  
OFFERED AT \$1,150,000  
2 LEVELS WITH 4 BEDROOMS & 2 BATHS

**BRIGHT, AIRY & BEAUTIFUL 1924 TUDOR**  
567 ELDORA ROAD, PASADENA  
OFFERED AT \$939,000  
3 BEDROOMS & 1.5 BATHS  
OPEN HOUSE: SUNDAY 2-5 PM

**CRAFTSMAN GEM**  
228 N. ENCINITAS AVENUE, MONROVIA  
OFFERED AT \$820,000  
3 BEDROOMS & 1 3/4 BATHS  
OPEN HOUSE: SUNDAY 1-4 PM

**WONDERFUL CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW**  
113 S. SHAMROCK AVENUE, MONROVIA  
OFFERED AT \$729,000  
3 BEDROOMS & 1.5 BATHS

**INVITING BUNGALOW**  
132 MAY AVENUE, MONROVIA  
REDUCED TO \$729,900  
3 BEDROOMS & 2 BATHS

**CHARMING 1925 ENGLISH TUDOR**  
1854 N. LOS ROBLES AVE PASADENA  
REDUCED TO \$699,700  
3 BEDROOMS & 1 BATH

**ADORABLE BUNGALOW LOVINGLY RESTORED**  
423 E. FOOTHILL BLVD., MONROVIA  
OFFERED AT \$634,900  
3 BEDROOMS & 2 BATHS

**CUTE COTTAGE BUILT IN 1922**  
221 NORUMBEGA DRIVE, MONROVIA  
OFFERED AT \$625,000  
1 BEDROOM & 1 BATH

# SPORTS

## Amateur Boxers Set for 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Duarte Youth Boxing Show, Aug. 19

Young amateur boxers from boxing clubs throughout Southern California and Las Vegas, Nevada will converge in Duarte on Sunday, Aug. 19 to compete in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Duarte Youth Boxing Show hosted by Duarte Parks and Recreation's Duarte Youth Boxing Club. Boxers from local clubs including Duarte, Baldwin Park, Azusa, Chino and South El Monte will be among the match-ups in the estimated 20 bouts required.

The show will be held at the Duarte High School Gym, 1565 E. Central Ave. Weigh-ins start at 9 a.m., with matchmaking to follow. Doors open to the public at 12 noon, with the first bout scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. To compete as an amateur, boxers must be certified by USA Boxing, the national governing organization for Olympic-style boxing. Contenders, ranging from 8 years old to early 20s, will be matched by age, weight and experience. The winner of each bout will receive a championship belt. Their opponents will receive a trophy for competing.

Former WBC Super Bantamweight Champion Paul Banke, and New WBO Featherweight Champ Steven Luevano, will attend the boxing show to participate in ceremonies.

Last year's show was a major success, attracting an audience of 700 to

watch the 19 matches officiated by USA Boxing personnel. It was equally successful for the fledgling Duarte Youth Boxing Club team. Seven of the eight Duarte competitors won their bouts and two, Michael Flores and Paul Magallanes, were named outstanding boxers of the show.

The City of Duarte Parks and Recreation Department started the club in 2005. In just under two years, head coach Victor Valenzuela and assistant coaches, Eric Campugan and Louis Valenzuela, have developed a highly competitive youth boxing program.

Tino Dominguez, 15, recently won two Silver medals, the first in the Junior Olympic Southern California Championships, and the National Junior Olympic Championships in July.

At the recent Desert Showdown in Coachella, CA, 3 of 4 young Duarte boxers participating won championship belts. Aris Ambriz, 21, a former member who recently turned pro will compete in his second pro bout at Harrah's Casino in San Diego on Friday, Aug. 17. General admission to the Duarte Youth Boxing Show is \$5; \$3 kids 11 and under; 3 years and under admitted free. Proceeds will be used to support the Duarte Youth Boxing Program and the Duarte Teen Center. For more information, call Duarte Youth Boxing Club at (626) 303-0863 or (626) 967-0291.



Young Boxers at the 2006 Show  
Photo and story courtesy Duarte Youth Boxing Club



## View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

## WHO HAS THE REAL POWER?

This is a great time of year to be a sports fan. The baseball races are heating up - except for our Dodgers - they are going in the wrong direction. The Ducks have made us all hockey fans with their impressive championship win. The new midfielder for the Galaxy, David Beckham, has the whole town talking and as of Wednesday he scored his first goal for the home team. Who knows, he may even make us Yanks into soccer fans.

The season is turning to Fall, which means football is right around the corner. We are the only major metropolitan area in the country that does not have a professional football franchise, so we are left with only college football. Our college football is great though, both USC and UCLA should have very good teams. If they both play to their potential they could meet on December 1, 2007 at the coliseum as undefeated teams. A meeting such as that would not only have bragging rights, it would also have PAC 10 and national championship implications. But, back to what a great season it is, it is almost time for that ten million dollar inaugural Fed-Ex cup in golf that will be played soon. Like I said this is a wonderful time to be a sports fan.

With all this going on in the sports world I am sorry to have to report that there is a war brewing in our Pac10 vs. Big Ten household and I am certain we are not the only one involved in a similar conflict. It has nothing to do with if "The Ohio State University" should be ranked in the top 10 or if USC really deserves to be ranked number one. No, this war goes deep to the very essence

of co-existing. The sad thing about this war is that it grew out of a happy acquisition. We recently purchased a flat screen high definition TV. This TV is so cool that when you are watching an event you feel as if you are there.

Cool or not, its existence has made an existing problem worse.

The problem first surfaced last weekend. Before I go further, let me say that I have nothing against ice skating but I do not prefer it over golf or any other sporting event.

So, there I was watching the golf tournament when suddenly the channel changed and the other half begin to discuss the brilliance of the skater's customs, and how you could see the concentration on the faces of the skaters. It was at that point that I made a critical mistake. I reached for the remote control. Bad move, I let my true intentions be known too quickly. When the intruder saw that I wanted to go back to the golf match, she gobbled up the remote control and has maintained possession of it for over a week. When the teenager or I would like to have the channel changed we must petition the remote control czar. Where the czar stores the remote when it is not in use is a mystery that the two subjects have not been able to solve. Let me tell you we have been subjected to true remote control abuse. The old saying is true, "the hand that controls the remote rules the household."

From the couch I remain 'remotless'.....

## The Reception of a Lifetime for as little as \$7,000<sup>000</sup>



**Twin Palms**  
Saturday or  
Sunday Wedding  
Reception

Enjoy the entire elegant setting of Twin Palms on a Saturday afternoon, from 11 am until 4 pm, for as little as \$7,000.\* This includes your personalized menu, beverages, dance floor and friendly service to complete your wedding experience.

\*Twin Palms is available for evening receptions as well. Consider a Sunday evening for as little as \$10,000.\*

Call our Wedding Specialist at (626) 577-4539.

\*Tax 10% service fee & 2.25% sales tax. Book-out dates apply.



614 S. Myrtle Ave.  
Monrovia, CA  
91016  
626-357-9658

**Chang**  
THAI BISTRO

We now serve Beer, Wine, & Asian Vodka Cocktails  
Sun - Thurs 11am to 10pm Fri - Sat 11am to 10:30pm

Hundreds of chain steak houses.  
**Only ONE...**

**JJ STEAK HOUSE**  
SEAFOOD GRILLE

THE FIVE STAR RESTAURANT  
Voted Best Steakhouse in Los Angeles - L.A. Magazine

88 WEST COLORADO BOULEVARD • PASADENA  
CALL (626) 844.8889

redwhite+bluezz  
WINE BAR AND GRILL  
BEST TASTING JAZZ CLUB

CUTTING-EDGE AMERICAN CUISINE  
5PM WINE + CHEESE  
LIVE JAZZ EVERY NIGHT

BRUNCH+ ALL THAT JAZZ  
EVERY SAT+ SUN  
9am-2pm  
REGULAR SEPT 8

HAPPY HOUR MONDAY-FRIDAY 5PM-7PM  
redwhitebluezz.com | 626-798-4441  
1000 WEST GARDEN AVENUE • SUITE 100 • PASADENA, CA 91103

**ED CLARE**  
ELECTRICAL

CLARELECTRICAL.COM

ED CLARE ELECTRICAL  
IN  
SIERRA MADRE  
PERSONALIZED AND QUALITY  
SERVICE SINCE 1976

626 355-4424

**ALSTON & ASSOCIATES**  
MORTGAGE COMPANY  
Licensed Mortgage Lender

www.alstonmortgage.com  
**GUARANTEED APPROVALS**  
**GUARANTEED CLOSING**



Mark Alston, Founder & President